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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

July 1998

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 145, No. 1

The Magazine for a Strong America

July 1998

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



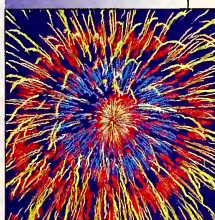
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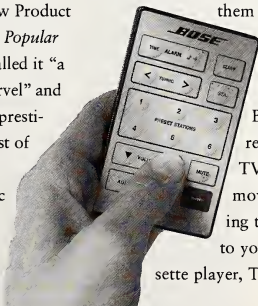


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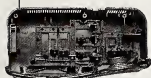
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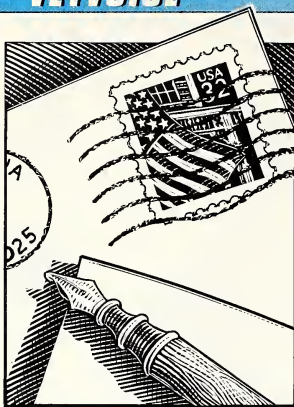
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House Calls

I READ with appreciation Leon A. Secrest's letter to the editor (Fewer House Calls, May) in which he urged readers to make their Congressmen aware of the impact of home health care provisions outlined in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I certainly shared Secrest's concerns and am working to correct the problems created by the provisions of this measure.

I did not support the Balanced Budget Act. These provisions were included in the BBA to curb spending and reduce fraud and abuse. There were dramatic increases in home health-care spending from 1990 to 1997. Some members of Congress apparently believed senior citizens and disabled individuals were receiving services that were not needed. I argued that the cost of the increase in home health care spending was due more to the success of a concerted effort to reduce the cost of hospitalization and that fraudulent practices by some home health agencies would be better pursued through the judicial system. In other words, we deliberately discharged seniors from hospitals who still need a great deal of medical attention, and home health filled this gap.

I have co-sponsored bills introduced by Sens. Edward Kennedy and Richard Shelby to begin correcting some of these problems. I will continue working with beneficiaries and home health agencies to do what I can to reverse the provisions and hope this will be accomplished in the near future.

The Senate Special Committee on Aging met on March 31 to discuss this issue.

It was the unanimous opinion of committee members that Congress "had gone overboard in their attempts to rein in spending," and that they should revisit the venipuncture, surety bond, and interim payment system issues to come up with more acceptable solutions.

In the meantime, I welcome any suggestions Secrest or your other readers may have on this issue.

*Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings
South Carolina*

CHRISTMAS AT WAR

FOR the December issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, we'd like to run recollections of wartime veterans—with related photos—of the most significant Christmas they spent in uniform.

If you have a compelling Christmas memory from the war years, plus a related photo, and would like to share them with The American Legion family, please focus your account to less than 300 words. Forward your Yule recollection and the photo or a copy of it for our consideration; all photos will be returned. Veterans whose Christmas memories and photos are selected for publication will be paid \$50. Submissions without photos cannot be considered.

Only submissions postmarked on or before Oct. 1 will be eligible, and all will be subject to normal editing for style and content. THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE will publish as many Christmas memories of the war years as space and design considerations allow. Writers should make sure addresses and telephone numbers are attached to both article and photo. Submissions should be sent to:

**Christmas at War
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Crucial Construction

AS a member of the U.S. Navy both before and during WWII, I enjoyed Adm. Zumwalt's article in the April issue ("Ship-Shape and Sailing Strong"). However, I am sure other Seabees were disappointed that Zumwalt neglected to mention the Navy Construction Battalions. The Seabees knew little about military protocol, but they got the job they were given done. That job was to build roads, docks, tank farms, hospitals and airstrips. And on many occasions they had to defend what these men constructed. I feel that the Seabees were worthy of at least a sentence, if not a paragraph.

*PNC Joe L. Matthews
Fort Worth, Texas*

Smoking Mad

LET me get this straight. At the same time that the Department of Veterans' Affairs and a few members of Congress are saying it would be giving away the store to provide benefits for tobacco-related illnesses stemming from a veteran's tobacco use while in service, President Clinton announces his determination to restore food stamps and other largess to illegal aliens.

Maybe one of our politicians can explain why thousands of people who have entered this country illegally need only ask to receive millions of dollars, while the pleas of our own ailing veterans are subjected to a Byzantine maze of legalistic hair-splitting, only to be denied treatment for reasons of cost.

*O.M. Ostlund Jr.
State College, Pennsylvania* □

Corrections

IN May's VetVoice Archie E. Lux (mistakenly identified as Lutz) of North Bend, Washington, visited World War II battlefields in France, Germany and Belgium in 1983, not 1993. We regret the error.

A photograph regarding The American Legion Senior National Drum and Bugle Corps Championship failed to identify Pennsylvania Department Commander Louise Chase. We apologize for the oversight.

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SHOULD THE U.S. HALT IMF CONTRIBUTIONS?

Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas)



YES For families, for workers, for America, the United States needs to withdraw from the International Monetary Fund, not bail it out. Majority Leader Dick Armye has explained the risks of a bailout:

"Left unexamined and unchecked, this policy will enhance the chances of the Asian contagion infecting other regions, weaken financial systems worldwide, and ultimately cause the very panics and crashes it is intended to avert. [The IMF bailout policy] is highly dangerous."

He is referring to a moral hazard and the natural consequence of a sustained world-wide credit expansion of unprecedented proportions. According to free-market economics, all credit expansions set the stage for a correction. Markets make the necessary corrections and should be allowed to do so. The most important congressional responsibility to currencies is a sound dollar.

The International Monetary Fund's supporters claim that this IMF request is a "neutral" exchange of assets. This exchange is not neutral for the taxpayer. If we were to give marked bills to the IMF today, Wall Street and corrupt foreign leaders would have them tomorrow.

We take money out of the paychecks of the working people of this country and give them nothing in return—they cannot pay for child care or education with the IMF's special drawing rights (SDRs), nor can they go to the IMF for a loan to pay off credit cards, tuition, cars or mortgages. This is not a fair deal for average Americans.

It is not a neutral exchange for our country, either. We are being asked to tax our citizens more in order to give their hard-earned money to the IMF in exchange for SDRs. Supporters claim that this is merely an exchange of monetary assets with no budgetary consequences. But when we get past the gimmickry and shell games, we find that our support of the IMF has contributed significantly to our debt, according to U.S. Treasury figures.

Bailout supporters claim that we make money on our holdings at the IMF. This is true, but the *net* transaction is negative: What we make is less than what we are paying on the national debt. In other words, we are borrowing at a higher interest rate than we earn. We need to stop the budgetary shell games used to deceive the American people. We must oppose new funding for the IMF. □

Rep. Richard A. Gephardt (D-Missouri)



NO As America's economy continues to move forward, economies on the other side of the world are on the brink of collapse. This seems unreal to most Americans who hear the bullish nightly news from Wall Street and Main Street. We have erroneously come to believe that our own economic progress has insulated us from the turmoil occurring in world markets.

However, the economic crisis in Asia—South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and others—is not half a world away in terms of its ability to affect the United States. In the new global economy we are all next-door neighbors.

The crisis has caused Asian markets to plummet and currencies to be devalued. Those economies are drowning under a tide of debt and bankruptcies and are being destabilized by high unemployment and negative economic growth. The immediate response is: Why us? Why must the United States come to the aid of foreign economies and foreign workers?

The bottom line is that the United States has the most to gain from the new system of interconnected global economies. A great deal of the growth in corporate earnings and employment we have enjoyed in the past five years has been driven by the increase in trade with the very Asian economies now in crisis.

If those countries go under, they will stop buying the cars, computers, food and a myriad of other products that we sell to Asia. And if their currencies continue to collapse, they will be able to dump cheap exports into U.S. markets, destroying their American competitors and our jobs. Either way, an unchecked Asian crisis will cause American growth to stall—and bring us higher rates of unemployment and lower economic growth.

We can't afford not to act. Stepping in was the right thing to do. And I am taking the lead in Congress to give the IMF the resources and the tools it needs to do its job in Asia. Congress must pass a plan that helps the IMF and protects our interests.

Some want to wash their hands of it. But we are too intertwined in the world economy to walk away from the Asia crisis. It just isn't an option—it is a necessary investment, made out of self-interest, to ensure that the foundation for American economic growth into the next century is preserved. □

Your Opinions Count, Too.

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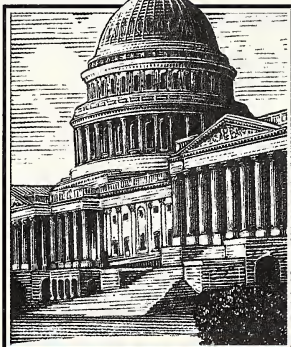
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By Cliff Kincaid

Name One for the Gipper

IN a tribute to the former president, Congress last spring renamed Washington National Airport Ronald Reagan National Airport. But the tribute doesn't end there. Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, is working to get airports, mountains, bridges and other sites in all 50 states, as well as Eastern Europe and Central America, named in honor of the man whose policies were credited with promoting the downfall of Soviet communism. Norquist already has met with government officials in the former communist-dominated country of Poland to name something in Reagan's honor there.

Reacting to an editorial suggestion from *Investor's Business Daily* that Reagan's likeness be added to Mount Rushmore, Michael Kamburowski of ATR says it's a great idea but would have to be accomplished over a period of 10 or 15 years.

"More than any other person," the paper said, "Reagan was responsible for the end of the most tyrannical system of government known to man."

A Social Insecurity

IT looked like a good plan: use the federal budget surplus to "save Social Security." But the surplus comes out of Social Security. A total of \$82 billion is coming out of the Social Security trust fund this year and

another \$94 billion next year to make the federal budget look balanced.

Another problem: Rep. Nick Smith of Michigan says the system faces an unfunded liability of \$3 trillion over the next 75 years.

The talk in Washington is that another commission will educate the public about possible solutions, including lower benefits, higher Social Security taxes and raising retirement ages. But Smith and other sponsors of the Social Security Solvency Act think the answer must include worker-owned retirement accounts in which they can set aside some of their Social Security taxes in a private investment fund.

With a leading senator, Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, supporting a variation of this approach, it looks likely that both parties could agree on a plan to save Social Security by privatizing at least part of it.

Institute Won't Be Co-Ed

LAMENTING the Virginia Military Institute's change to co-ed status two years ago, supporters of the Southern Military Institute are creating an all-male military college.

Established by Dr. Michael J. Guthrie and other VMI alumni, SMI seeks public support to create a four-year, degree-granting college for males only. It's an experiment in private education that will receive no government support. SMI will provide male cadets with training in moral values, American history, Western civilization and military history.

Protect Yourself

YOU'VE seen scare stories about the horrifying prospect of a chemical or biological attack on the United States. Recently, a defecting Russian scientist told ABC news that his former colleagues have developed a "demonic weapon" made of Ebola and smallpox "for maximum kill potential."

But what to do? Jane's Information Group, a firm described as the closest thing to a commercial intelligence agency, has just published a *Chem-Bio Handbook* (\$30), which describes how to identify and treat chemical and biological agents. One idea is to create a de-contamination site using materials

from your local department store.

Joe Dougherty of Jane's confirms that New York City has purchased 10,000 copies for fire fighters, police officers and transit officers, and adds that several other major U.S. cities are set to make bulk purchases.

Nice Niño

EL Niño's storms did about \$1 billion in damage to California. But overall, it might have contributed \$6 billion to the U.S. economy. That's right: El Niño was a net plus.

The reason, according to the respected publication *World Climate Report*, is that warmer temperatures helped Americans save about \$5 billion on heating bills during the winter. And because El Niño weather patterns discourage the formation of hurricanes, Americans saved about \$1 billion in property damage.

Ain't What It Used To Be

YOU might have missed it, but April 22 was Earth Day, an event designed to rally support for the environment. Participation has dwindled since the first Earth Day celebration 28 years ago because, says the National Center for Public Policy Research, enormous progress has been made in cleaning up the environment.

The Washington think tank's figures are startling: Almost 30 years ago, pollution was killing people by the dozens during heat waves in New York City, rivers were catching fire from industrial waste and oil spills were damaging the California coast and soaking seabirds. Today, however, air pollution emissions have declined by 24 percent, lead emissions by 98 percent and soot by 71 percent. Seventy-five percent of our rivers and 82 percent of our lakes are safe for swimming, and oil spills generally have become a thing of the past. Also, the nation's forest growth exceeds harvests by close to 40 percent.

Even though more Americans than ever consider themselves environmentalists, the think tank says, environmental organizations are losing members. Greenpeace, for example, has lost almost half of its 1.2 million members over the last several years. □

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GRASSROOTS GRIT

When the people rule, they must pay attention to what they're doing and to the folk they've hired to do it.

PATRICK Slevin isn't your typical Legionnaire. He's not your typical anything, for that matter. But he should be a paradigm for Legionnaires, at least in matters of politics and government.

Slevin fully understands the importance of good government and tries to implement positive policies as mayor of Safety Harbor, Florida. At 29—less than half the age of most Legionnaires—this member of Post 238 has made a mark in his community, while also advancing ideals promoted by The American Legion.

"The stereotype of the Legionnaire hiding out in a Post home," Slevin says, "doesn't hold true here. Post 238 has taken programs important to us and worked them into the community at many levels." Taking a proactive approach, Legion members can accomplish everything from helping unfortunate families in distress at the local level to making a push for Legion-sponsored legislation on Capitol Hill, Slevin adds.

Molly Spearman agrees. As a state representative in South Carolina, Spearman makes decisions affecting residents of the Palmetto State every day. As Poppy Chairman and a past Girls Nation director, she affects the lives of Auxiliary members and young women nationwide. Many times, the duties mesh.

"I enjoy serving the people in my state as a legislator," Spearman says. "I have the opportunity to help a variety of people. Legislators make decisions that will affect the lives of citizens for years to come." She adds that the same feeling comes in service to the American Legion Auxiliary.

For Slevin, being an ardent supporter of Ronald Reagan led to his involvement in politics. For Spearman, Girls State did the trick. "I know it sounds cliché," she

"Don't abdicate leadership."

—Patrick Slevin, Mayor of Safety Harbor, Florida

says, "but being a Girls State citizen in 1971 planted the seed for me."

Not every American feels the same calling to public service. Few will follow the examples of Minnesota's James Ramstad, Indiana's Stephen Buyer, Florida's Michael Bilirakis and other Legionnaires who now serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. But most veterans and their families want to contribute in some way. Slevin says soldiers proved their commitment in conflicts from World War I to the Persian Gulf War, and now, as veterans, they continue putting it on the line for America. And many would do even more, if they just knew how.

The most important thing is to be heard on important American Legion issues: the flag-protection amendment, the GI Bill of Health, economic development, education, crime, conserving natural resources, national security, veterans' preference and many more concerns.

"Elected officials, from school board members to U.S. senators, listen to their constituents in a variety of ways," says Charles Pessio, chairman of the Legion's National Legislative Commission. "It can be through telephone calls, letters, faxes, electronic mail or personal visits to their offices."

In this nation's history, the citizen has been more than a voter, a rights-bearing member, or a consumer of services. The citizen also is a producer, a public agent and a civil servant. Addressing the tough challenges requires that people see themselves as essential to the democratic process.

Legionnaires can make a contribution by keeping officials informed of how voters feel about various issues. Of course, the individual

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PAT SLEVIN/AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY



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TALKING POINTS



TRIPLE CROWN Threat Amanda Jill Bryant (left) won third, Loren Ann Rozakos won second and Erin Lynne Plettenberg won first in the 1998 contest.

In its 61st year, the National Oratorical Contest produces vintage constitutional thought.



MEET Erin Lynne Plettenberg, 17. During the final round of The American Legion's 61st National High School Oratorical Contest, the senior from Parkville Magnet Center in Baltimore, Md., talked her way into an \$18,000 college scholarship.

That's the value of the first-place finish she earned by presenting the U.S. Constitution as a living, maturing concept. *The Living Constitution: Out of Its Infancy*—Plettenberg's oration—called Americans “to promote morality, patriotism and the improvement of life.”

Plettenberg, daughter of Johanna Christine Plettenberg and sponsored by Parkville Post 183, plans to attend Rice University in Houston, Texas, and considers economic analysis a likely career. After the contest, held in Indianapolis April 17-19, she traced the roots of her winning oration to an insight on the linkage of maturity and responsibility, freedom and rules.

“When my mom says ‘Be home early,’ does she mean by 9 p.m. or very early the next morning? As a country, America has been no different than a teenager trying to stretch curfew. We’ve put the Constitution to the test.

“In a government full of shifty politics and

shifter politicians, the Constitution is the one thing that holds fast and remains absolute, amazingly because of its dual nature: It is amendable, able to change as necessary but only when necessary, and yet woven through the entire document are certain fundamental truths, guidelines for the behavior of citizens and government officials alike,” Plettenberg said.

Plettenberg's competition in the final round sprang from the Departments of California and South Carolina. Loren Ann Rozakos, a junior at Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, Calif., traced the roots of American independence and the Constitution to reaction against “general warrants” first issued in the name of Charles II in 1754. General warrants became the “writ of assistance” so crucial in crystallizing colonial sentiment for revolution and independence—and for the Fourth Amendment against unreasonable search and seizure.

Rozakos, sponsored by Pacifica Post 238, finished second and won a \$16,000 scholarship. The daughter of Theresa Gavin Rozakos, she plans to attend the University of California at Los Angeles and is evaluating the career possibilities of broadcasting, public relations, law and politics. She studies tap, ballet and lyrical and jazz dance and chairs the Youth Philanthropist program at her school.

In *Search and Seizure—Your Rights*, Rozakos put both specific points (Law officers may search anyone's garbage after it has been put on the street for collection) and larger implications in Fourth Amendment context: The amendment also has the effect of safeguarding the integrity and credibility of law enforcement by setting high standards.

“Tonight, when we return to our homes, we enter them knowing that we are members of a free society, and that because of this freedom, we are safe from unlawful intrusion by government or law enforcement,” Rozakos reminded her audience. “The right to this privacy is considered the soul of the Bill of Rights, and its protection is guaranteed in the Fourth Amendment. It remains as important today as it was over 200 years ago when 55 delegates gathered together in Philadelphia to write the Constitution of the United States of America.”

Amanda Jill Bryant, a violin student and a senior at T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson, S.C., compared constitutional government to an orchestra in which each citizen-performer has important responsibilities, especially the responsibility to vote. The Constitution itself, she suggested in winning a \$14,000 scholarship, can be seen as a generator, one that stands

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LEGIIONNAIRES CAN LINK TO CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

THE American Legion encourages its Departments and Posts to support the Children's Miracle Network, whose mission is "Helping Hospitals Help Kids."

The Internet is making it easier for Legionnaires to help children with pressing medical needs. A Children's Miracle Network link was recently added to the Legion's Web Site, at www.legion.org/children.htm.

CMN, founded in 1983 by entertainers Marie Osmond and John Schneider, raises critically needed money for 170 children's hospitals in a network encompassing the United States and Canada. Schneider is a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron of Alamo Post 2, San Antonio, Texas.

These facilities treat 12 million children every year, children suffering from all



types of afflictions, from cerebral palsy to cancer, and other major medical conditions such as injuries from traffic accidents. Thanks to fund-raising efforts by network supporters, care is giv-

en based on need, not ability to pay.

The American Legion joined ranks with CMN through National Executive Committee Res. 9, approved by the NEC at Spring Meetings in May 1997. This commitment is in line with the Legion's traditional support for programs and activities that support

our nation's youth, says Elmer Fuhrhop, chairman of the National Commission on Children & Youth.

"We are on the same track as the Children's Miracle Network," says Fuhrhop.

"Their purposes and ours are the same—to aid children whenever possible, to relieve their burdens and do all within our power to nurture them through the critical early stages of their lives."

To smooth Legionnaires' way, CMN and The American Legion have created a fund-raising guidebook to assist Posts and individuals raising money for local network children's hospitals.

The guidebook contains the names of local contacts who can help with getting started. It also has several handy fund-raising suggestions, plus information about recognition and awards available. Better still, Legionnaires on-line can download or order the guidebook from the Legion's home page.

For more information, call (317) 630-1212, or e-mail, with Children's Miracle Network in the "subject" line: [<acy@legion.org>](mailto:acy@legion.org) □

FLORIDIANS AID INJURED FLAG RESCUER

NOBODY ordered Donny Chrivia to risk life and limb to protect the U.S. Flag, but he did. For his trouble he broke a few limbs and suffered other extensive injuries in a freak accident in south Florida last spring.

On May 4, Chrivia, 23, was critically injured trying to haul down a 30-foot by 20-foot American flag outside the Venice, Fla., restaurant where he worked as a cook. As a massive storm approached the area that day,

Chrivia noticed no one had taken down the flag. To preserve Old Glory, he enlisted the help of a fellow cook to lower the flag.

As the pair struggled with the huge banner, a powerful gust of wind billowed the folds of the flag and it shot skyward, with Chrivia a reluctant, terror-stricken passenger. As his compatriot watched, the wind burst lifted Chrivia 30 feet in the air, then slammed him onto the parking lot of an adjacent business. In the fall the for-

mer Boy Scout and Marine Corps Junior ROTC member broke his pelvic bone, one ankle, an elbow and several ribs; he also suffered extensive internal injuries.

Moved by his unselfish act, members of No-Vel Post 159 in Venice organized a benefit dinner to defray some of Chrivia's expenses.

"For that reason alone, that he was trying to protect those colors, I think [that] says a lot for this fellow," Post Commander Ray Hartzell told a local reporter.

"Our prayers are with him. We're thinking of the loss to [his] time and wages, and we want to help him out. Chrivia has had his share of hard luck."

Family members recall the young man's dream of joining the Marine Corps was shattered by a hit-and-run driver a few years ago. Returning from a JROTC drill, he was struck just a few blocks from home. He suffered head injuries and a badly mangled left leg that prevented him from enlisting. □

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CHANGE-UP FOR LEGION BALL

MOVE over Wayne Newton, The American Legion World Series is coming to town Aug. 21–25—Viva Las Vegas!

Sure, it will be hot (estimates place the average temperature in the mid-90s), but it's a dry heat. Besides, fans will be treated to the cooling vapors of "mistfers" in the shady stands of Cashman Field. This Triple-A stadium, home of the Las Vegas Stars, has 70 percent of its seating in the shade, air-conditioned suites for those who want to reserve them and plenty of free Gatorade for the players.

"I can't remember when the teams have played in a stadium such as this," says Larry Price, chairman of the National Baseball Subcommittee. "These players will have all the amenities afforded to Major Leaguers."

Along with the big-league venue, teams will depart from the previous double-elimination tournament to participate in a new, Olympic-style format. The inaugural run of the round robin tournament will place the teams in two pools: National Division and American Division.

Each team will play at least three games. Another plus is that teams will be able to plan when they will return home. "Booking flights home was always a monstrous task because nobody knew when they were leaving," says Price. "Now

we can plan when everyone is leaving and save a bundle in air fares."

The format also will be adopted by regional sites and by several Departments. One benefit to local organizers is that there will always be a "local" team playing in the evening game. During the first three days of the tournament, the round robin schedule ensures both the state champion and the host team will play a 5 p.m. or 8 p.m. game—providing a nice draw at the gate.

For those who haven't been to Vegas lately, it's not just a gambling town anymore. The desert gambling mecca is branching out by catering to the family market. Many of the major hotels

have constructed indoor amusement parks or host "G" rated entertainment.

To reserve tickets for The American Legion World Series, call (702) 798-6653. Use that same number to reserve tickets for the annual baseball banquet. This year's guest speaker will be longtime Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda. Banquet tickets cost \$35 in advance or \$40 the day of event. For more information on American Legion Baseball or Las Vegas, check out The American Legion Web site (www.legion.org/baseball), which offers a tremendous amount of information and history. And for hotel reservations, call Sunset Station, the official World Series headquarters, toll-free, at 888-SUNSET9 (786-7389).

Updated rule books and baseball manuals are available from National Headquarters, Attn: American Legion Baseball, Americanism Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or call (317) 630-1213. □



Summer means American Legion Baseball.

LEGIIONNAIRES IN ACTION

Gino Merli and the late Joseph Sarnoski of northeastern Pennsylvania were awarded the Medal of Honor following World War II, and now have a monument to their bravery in Lackawanna County.

Post 86, Rockville, Maryland, regularly contributes to The Metropolitan Washington Ear, a non-profit radio reading service for the blind serving Washington, D.C.

Vince Corrao and other members of Casas Adobes Post 73 in Tucson, Arizona, have donated nearly 10,000 books to VA Medical Centers for the use of hospitalized veterans.

Former Army Specialist and current Kentucky State Rep. Joseph A. "Jody" Haydon of Post 121 in Bardstown, Kentucky, was honored by the state legislature. Former Sgt. Ronald Rexroat, who served with Haydon in Vietnam from October 1968 to October 1969, also received accolades.

Legionnaires and Auxiliary of Admiral Arthur F. Spring Post 4, Olongapo City, Philippines, continue their giving ways despite local disasters like the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and the closing of Clark Air Base. They continue to maintain the veterans' cemetery at the former military base and sponsor three area child-care centers.

Frank J. Rodman of Floriano-Stecker Post 340 in Hermansville, Michigan, was named the Upper Peninsula Legionnaire of the Year.

Post 39 of Greenville, North Carolina, has secured the right to fly a POW/MIA flag, along with a U.S. Flag, in the veterans' section of the local cemetery. □



UPPER CUMBERLAND American Legion 135 members present a check for \$3,800 to fund scholarships for ROTC cadets at Tennessee Tech. Legionnaires Augusta Miller, Hal Martin, Commander Lester C. "Joe" Miller and Morgan Miller (far right) offer a facsimile check to Lt. Col. Mark Ochsenbein, chairman of the military science department, and Elaine Kelsey, director of the school's major giving program for the ROTC Alumni Endowment. Post 135 members raised the money through their annual gun and knife show.

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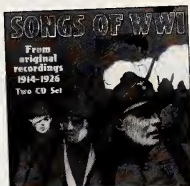
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Across America With Larry Woods

Conventional journalism calls for scooping the competition and delivering hard news. But this roving correspondent goes beyond deadlines and headlines—and his subjects are the folks living next door.

WITH a polished cowboy boot propped up on a file cabinet and the telephone receiver tucked snugly between his right ear and shoulder, Larry Woods leans back in his swivel chair and flips through some notes as he carries on a conversation with Helen Gurley-Brown, the former editor of *Cosmopolitan Magazine*. It's an informal chat sprinkled with an occasional chuckle from the personable Woods, whose quiet southern charm and sophisticated wit leave the impression that the conversation is being held between two good friends.

Woods has many such conversations with world leaders, political figures, celebrities, sporting superstars—and those of us who are somewhat less-known, too. In fact, it is the lesser-known among us to whom Woods devotes much of his time and energy with his Sunday morning show, *Across America*.

The show—says Woods' boss, CNN's News Vice President Ed Turner—got its start almost eight years ago when the network giant recognized it needed to provide more than “hard” or “spot” news to its viewers. With a remorseful shake of the head, Turner says journalists today all-too-often get caught up in the blood and guts of a story and overlook the story's heart. “If we were covering the crucifixion of Christ,” he sighed, “we'd probably miss the dawning of Christianity.” That's why he chose Woods to do *Across America*, Turner says—to look through the frenzied crowds and document those whose lives are extraordinary.

And so he does: Be it telling a story about a man from Missouri who has spent his entire life overcoming obstacles attributed to being literally crippled by dyslexia, following the life of a young girl born without arms or legs, or documenting the real story behind the demise of two hapless cowboys in an Indian raid near the tiny town of Freedom, Okla., Woods goes *Across America* to paint electronic pictures for us all to enjoy on Sunday mornings. In the following interview, he talks to Charles Newcomb, a freelance contributor to this magazine, about his work.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: You



TRAVELING MAN
 "I've got the best job in the business," boasts Woods, host of the popular CNN feature, *Across America*.

boast you have "the best job in the business." How is it that you find working on *Across America* so much more rewarding than conventional journalism?

LARRY WOODS: Well, think about it: I get to travel all over the country and do stories about people who are very special—people who have touched others in some remarkable way. After years of being a journalist involved in everyday hard news, what I'm doing now is a breath of fresh air. I love what I'm doing, and I'll have to admit it has probably spoiled me.

Q. Spoiled you?

A. Yes. I'm not at all interested in going back to conventional journalism. When the day comes I can't do this anymore, then I think it will be time for me to retire and write my novel.

Q. Your office walls are covered

with pictures of family and friends. With all the famous people you've encountered during your career, why aren't their photos up there, too?

A. These are the people who are most important to me. Although I've developed friendships with some very famous people, the people you see in the pictures here are the ones who bring real meaning to my life.

Q. You received your journalism training when you went to college on the GI Bill. Was this helpful?

A. Yes it was. I'm one of those people who are beholden to the military for what it has given me. Aside from traveling all over the world and meeting interesting people when I was a radar-navigation technician in the Strategic Air Command back in the '50s, it gave me the opportunity to go to school and make a good living for me and my family. I joined the Air Force on the "buddy plan" with my old pal, Ray Foster. We bounced all

over the world on B-47s with the likes of Gen. Curtis LeMay and had a great time. It changed my life—I had no idea what I was going to do before I joined, I just knew working at going-nowhere construction jobs wasn't what I wanted.

Q. What made you decide to become a journalist? Was it something you thought about earlier in life?

A. No, actually it wasn't. I was an engineering student at the University of Florida, but my math skills were pretty weak, to say the least. The school had a well-recognized journalism program, so I made the switch early on. Next to marrying Dee, it was the best decision I've ever made. [Regrettably, Dee Woods died after this interview was conducted.]

Q. You mentioned that you've "paid your dues in the trenches." Does that mean you haven't always

Please turn to page 63

Great New Products



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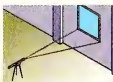
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If you drive an expensive luxury car, you already know how useful an on-board compass is, even on city streets. The new DEC Navigator is even more sophisticated, without having to buy the \$38,000 car. Using technology first developed for the military, the Navigator is ultra-precise, reading out not just general directions (N, S, SE, NW, etc.) but numeric compass points as well, in 5° increments. So accurate it can be used on boats and planes. Shielded circuitry eliminates tilt or magnetic interference. Water resistant. Blue back-light for night driving, shuts off automatically. Lithium battery included. Uses micro-suction-cups to mount easily on dash or glass at any angle.

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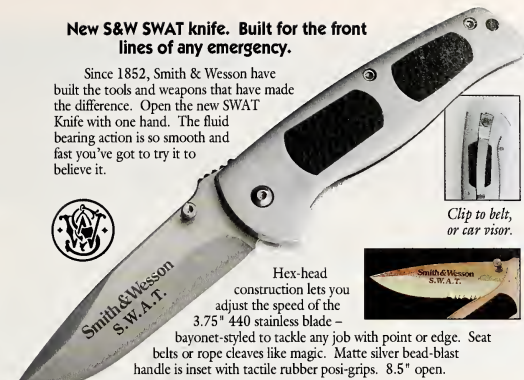


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Preventive Rx for Future Vets' Needs

THE American Legion's voice resounds loud and clear in the growing chorus on Capitol Hill urging the VA to deliver priority medical care to Persian Gulf veterans and all veterans of future conflicts.

At press time, a House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee headed by Rep. Cliff Stearns of Florida was crafting legislation to provide priority care to Persian Gulf veterans through Dec. 31, 2001. It also would extend the same priority to veterans of future wars, thus avoiding the delays and bitter post-war experiences of sick veterans from Operation Desert Storm (Gulf War illnesses), Vietnam (Agent Orange) and preceding conflicts.

"This bill, although much more modest in scale than the GI Bill, parallels its vision," says National Commander Anthony G. Jordan. "It applies the lessons learned from our past to solve the problems of veterans today and for years to come."

Notes Stearns, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee: "The Gulf experience and that of prior wars has taught us that, despite the best protective measures, some veterans will return from future overseas combat with unexplained illnesses. We need to be armed to provide them prompt, effective treatment," says Stearns, an Air Force Vietnam-era veteran.

The most pressing concern for sick Gulf War veterans is receiving timely diagnosis and treatment for their illnesses, no matter what the cause.

That need points up the importance of the other major provision in the proposed bill. The measure would create a national center devoted to the study of war-related illnesses and would guide research into their causes while developing effective treatments.

"The bill not only is a key part of the VA's current efforts to determine which medical approaches effectively treat these illnesses, but it will help create a VA system ready to hit the deck running after our next war," reports Legionnaire Matthew Puglisi, who recently appeared before a House panel to explain the Legion's position. "The bill provides VA with the opportuni-

ty to address the next 'Gulf War Syndrome' competently."

Creating a national center on war-related illnesses is a concession to experience, Puglisi says. Traditionally, the federal government has been slow to respond when returning veterans report lingering health complaints and disabling symptoms medical science can't explain or treat.

Research into the causes of undiagnosed illnesses—reported by thousands of returning Gulf veterans—and study of the environmental hazards they faced, are the goals of **HR 3279**, the Persian Gulf Veterans Act of 1998, introduced by Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois.

The Legion also supports this bill, which would call on the National Academy of Sciences, the nation's premier independent scientific institution, to analyze all pertinent studies linking undiagnosed illnesses to veterans' service in the Gulf.

After their victorious return from the Gulf in 1991, veterans began reporting a puzzling array of symptoms—chronic fatigue, respiratory ailments, headaches, dizziness, muscle weakness, hair loss, stress and psychological disorders, among others—that they believe are linked to environmental hazards they faced during their deployment. The hazards ranged from inhaling smoke from oil well fires set by retreating Iraqis to possible low-level exposure to chemical and biological agents released when U.S. troops destroyed Iraqi ammunition dumps.

Stung by criticism from the veterans' community and others for their inaction, the VA and Department of Defense in recent years have poured millions of dollars into research and treatment efforts designed to assist Gulf veterans. Both departments established registries (the VA in 1992 and DoD in 1994) that identify the medical conditions of sick veterans and have redoubled their outreach efforts to make up for lost time.

Ongoing fundamental reforms within VA are changing how the system delivers care to veterans. It's transforming the VA from a hospital-based system to an out-patient system guided by the managed-care principles that predominate in the civilian sector.

West Confirmed as VA Chief

The Department of Veterans' Affairs officially has a new secretary to oversee its vast health-care delivery and benefits systems.

Togo D. West Jr. was confirmed as secretary by the Senate last May. West was named acting secretary by the White House in December 1997, several months after Jesse Brown resigned the position. West served as secretary of the Army from 1993 until his recent appointment and was an associate deputy U.S. attorney general. He also served as general counsel for the Defense Department.

West was commissioned an Army second lieutenant of artillery after

being graduated from Howard University in 1965. He later earned a law degree and was recalled to active duty to serve in the Army's Judge Advocate General Corps.

The new VA secretary, a member of American Legion Post 113, Department of Idaho, also has worked as an attorney in the private sector.

Benefits by the Book

The latest edition of one of the federal government's best-selling booklets is now available from the U.S. Government Printing Office. Published by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents* has been revised to include changes in law for 1998.

The 89-page handbook provides the latest information on important changes in eligibility for VA medical care. It also describes other federal benefits, including education, disability compensation, pensions, home loan guarantees, vocational rehabilitation, life insurance and burial assistance. The booklet includes details on benefits and services for particular groups, such as women and Gulf War veterans.

The Government Printing Office sells the booklet for \$3.75, but the full text is available free through the Internet at www.va.gov/benefits.htm. For copies, ask for GPO stock number 051-000-00214-8 from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. □

Countdown To VICTORY



COUNTDOWN TO VICTORY

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Cover photo by T. delAmo/H. Armstrong Roberts; Inset: John E. Simon



THREE decades have passed since that blistering autumn day near Tam Ky, Vietnam. Army Staff Sgt. Webster Anderson and his unit were slugging it out against North Vietnamese forces. In the initial assault, Anderson was wounded in both legs yet he continued the fight.

An enemy grenade landed near a wounded soldier, and Anderson grabbed it and hurled it away. The soldier was saved, but a blinding flash and thundering roar ripped away one of Anderson's arms. Still, the gritty sergeant, who later would lose both legs, kept fighting and inspired others to drive on and win the day. Anderson was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

Years later, Anderson, a member of South Carolina's Winnsboro American Legion Post 215, was speaking to a group of students. One asked if he would be willing to put his life on the line again for his country. He looked the youngster in the eye said: "What I did was worth it. Kid, I only have one arm left, but my country can have it any time it wants."

The Webster Andersons of this world astound and inspire me. They step forward to do

It's A Grand New FLAG AMENDMENT

By National Commander Anthony G. Jordan

important jobs without expectation of recognition or reward. They often fight insurmountable odds because they know what they're doing is right. And they don't quit until the mission is accomplished.

For nine years, The American Legion family has struggled to accomplish an important mission: to amend the Constitution to restore to the American people the right to protect the flag—a right they enjoyed for 200 years before the Supreme Court took it away in 1989. We didn't seek this fight; it was thrust upon us when the Supreme Court ruled that flag burning is protected speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution. We have charged forward with courage, conviction and the confidence that what we are doing is right.

Most Americans share our view. More than 80 percent of citizens polled support the flag-protection amendment, and 49 state legislatures have adopted resolutions urging Congress to pass the measure.

To that end, I commend to you this special section on the flag amendment. It provides valuable information about the flag-protection issue, and I encourage you to use this material in any way you see fit to promote passage of the amendment.

THERE has been some confusion and misinformation concerning what the amend-

ment will do. First, it will not protect our flag. It will empower Congress to pass legislation outlawing flag desecration, if it chooses to do so.

A year ago, the House of Representatives passed the flag-protection amendment. **Senate Joint Resolution 40** is awaiting debate and a vote—and that could happen at any time. To be adopted, **SJR 40** needs a minimum of 67 votes. We're close to that number, and we've worked hard to get where we are. Now it's time to clock in overtime.

As this campaign comes down to the wire, I urge each of you to contact your senators and urge them to support the flag-protection amendment.

If they are co-sponsors, thank them for it; if they're not, urge them to support it, tell them why you favor it and remind them that an overwhelming number of their constituents believe as you do.

Time is short and every letter, visit and telephone call counts. One Supreme Court justice took away our freedom to protect our flag and one senator's vote might be all it takes to restore it. One more letter might be all it takes to persuade your senator. Please, write that letter today.

The clock is ticking. Let's accomplish our mission so that one day we can look into the eyes of our children and say with pride, "We fought this battle for you. And yes, it was worth it." □

Road Map To The Vote

THE battle to secure a flag-protection amendment has been waged for more than nine years. Below are highlights from that campaign:

■ **21 JUNE 1989** By a 5-4 vote, the Supreme Court rules in *Texas v. Johnson* that burning the American flag is free speech protected under the First Amendment. This abrogates flag-burning statutes in 48 states. American Legion National Commander H.F. "Sparky" Gierke voices the organization's disgust over the ruling.

■ **JULY/AUG 1989** American Legion launches petition drive to collect 1 million signatures of Americans demanding flag-protection amendment. Goal reached; petitions presented to the Congress.

■ **12 OCT 1989** House and Senate adopt **House Resolution 2978**, a federal statute to protect the flag; Legion predicts statute will not stand the test of the courts.

■ **28 OCT 1989** **HR 2978** becomes **Public Law 101-131**; flag burned on steps of the Capitol in Washington to protest enactment of the law; other public flag-burnings reported around the country after passage of **PL 101-131**.

■ **FEB/MAR 1990** February-March 1990 Federal judges in Seattle and Washington, D.C., rule **PL 101-131** unconstitutional.

■ **11 JUNE 1990** Supreme Court rules **PL 101-131** unconstitutional.

■ **21 JUNE 1990** House fails to muster required two-thirds majority to pass a flag-protection amendment.

■ **26 JUNE 1990** Senate fails

to obtain two-thirds majority for flag-protection amendment.

■ **25 AUG 1992** Presidential candidate Bill Clinton tells American Legion National Convention delegates in Chicago he opposes flag-burning.

■ Memorializing resolution campaign gains steam throughout 1992-93; by the end of 1993, 35 state legislatures had approved resolutions. Gallup Organization polls show overwhelming public support for flag-protection amendment.

■ **24 AUG 1994** Formation of Citizens Flag Alliance publicly announced; goal is to promote flag amendment and education; the non-profit group seeks membership of other civic, social and fraternal organizations. Constitutional scholars gather in Williamsburg to discuss flag-protection amendment.

■ For the remainder of the year, CFA groups organize in all 50 states; National CFA mounts aggressive publicity campaign promoting flag awareness.

■ **21 MAR 1995** Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Howell Heflin, D-Ala., introduce **Senate Joint Resolution 31**, calling for the amendment; Reps. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., and G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., introduce a similar bill, **House Joint Resolution 79**, in their chamber. CFA officials vigorously encourage member groups and individuals to persuade their representatives and senators to become co-sponsors.

■ **12 APR 1995** Hawaii state lawmakers adopt flag memori-



FLAG ACTIVISTS Legion family members have been conspicuous in rallies across the nation for the flag-protection amendment.

alizing resolution, becoming the 49th state to do so; Vermont is the only state not to pass the measure.

■ White House counsel appears before Senate Judiciary Committee and says President Clinton is opposed to flag amendment; American Legion National Commander William Detweiler also testifies.

■ **28 JUNE 1995** **HJR 79** clears House 312-120; 290 votes were needed for the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

■ Polls conducted in key states show strong support for flag amendment among registered voters; polls also show candidates' position on flag amendment may determine citizens' votes in 1996 elections.

■ **12 DEC 1995** Senate rejects **SJR 31** by a vote of 63-36; CFA pledges to continue fight for the amendment.

■ **1996** Polls conducted in various states show registered voters believe they should have the right to determine if the flag should have constitutional protection. "Get Out The

Vote" project promoted by The American Legion.

■ CFA Board Chairman Patrick H. Brady appears at several news conferences and CFA member organizations' meetings.

■ **12 JUNE 1997** House passes **HJR 54**, 310-114; 11 House members did not vote.

■ American Legion National Commander Anthony G. Jordan announces *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign for 1998. All Americans urged to display U.S. Flag from homes, businesses, schools, etc., beginning Memorial Day and not lower the flags until the Senate passes the amendment.

■ **4 FEB 1998** **Senate Joint Resolution 40**, a proposed flag-protection amendment is introduced. Within a month, the measure has 61 co-sponsors.

■ **25 MAR 1998** A hearing on **SJR 40** is held by the Senate subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights. The measure must clear the Senate Judiciary Committee before it is voted on by the full chamber. □

The Constitutional Right of



Amending the Constitution looms as
the ultimate test of the people's power
to direct their government.

By Stephen B. Presser

THE flag-protection amendment is necessary because of the Supreme Court's surprising decision in *Texas v. Johnson* (1989). There, by a bare 5-4 majority, the court declared that flag burning was speech protected by the First Amendment and therefore could not be banned. This decision outraged four justices and many other Americans, who thought that defendant Gregory Johnson's conduct in incinerating the flag after repeatedly chanting "Red, white and blue, we spit on you," was an outlandish act of arson, not the kind of speech James Madison had in mind when he and his colleagues were drafting what became the First Amendment.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for the dis-

senters in *Johnson*, wondered how legislation prohibiting flag desecration that had been on the books in most states for decades, without objection, could have suddenly become impermissible. Rehnquist, after observing that several of the high court's greatest champions of the First Amendment thought that the flag could be protected from desecration, noted that the protection of the national symbol ought to be entitled to constitutionality as a matter of common sense, perhaps, rather than as a matter of sophisticated First Amendment jurisprudence.

In *Texas v. Johnson*, the majority even declared that the only permissible "symbolic value" of the flag was that it stood for the right to express oneself in opposition to the flag and that desecrating the flag was simply a manifestation of this right. The Supreme Court had

no basis for declaring that preserving this sort of license was the only symbolic value of the flag.

Following *Texas v. Johnson*, in a wave of public outrage, Congress passed a statute forbidding flag desecration. The statute was supposedly drafted in neutral language, in order to seem as not to be attacking speech. Several of us told Congress that only an amendment could au-

thorize flag-desecration statutes since the Court was disposed to read any prohibition on conduct involving the flag as an infringement of the First Amendment.

We were proved right when, a year later, the Supreme Court found the new statute unconstitutional. Sadly, some senators still believe a statute protecting the flag could be held constitutional and resist an amendment for that reason. But the court

made as clear as it could in its opinions that any statute prohibiting flag desecration would be construed as an impermissible interference with free speech.

Why am I for this amendment, when the Supreme Court has twice rejected the constitutionality of flag desecration, when many members of the legal academy and many commentators in the media remain opposed to it? First, until the *Johnson* decision, it was widely believed that the First Amendment could properly be construed to allow punishment of flag desecration. Since that view has only been overturned by the slimmest of Supreme Court majorities, I believe widespread public opinion, expressed in the continued grass-roots desire for a constitutional amendment, ought to be the most relevant factor in defining the nature of our First Amendment freedoms. To put this another way, the current flag-protection amendment effort is a vital exercise in participatory democ-

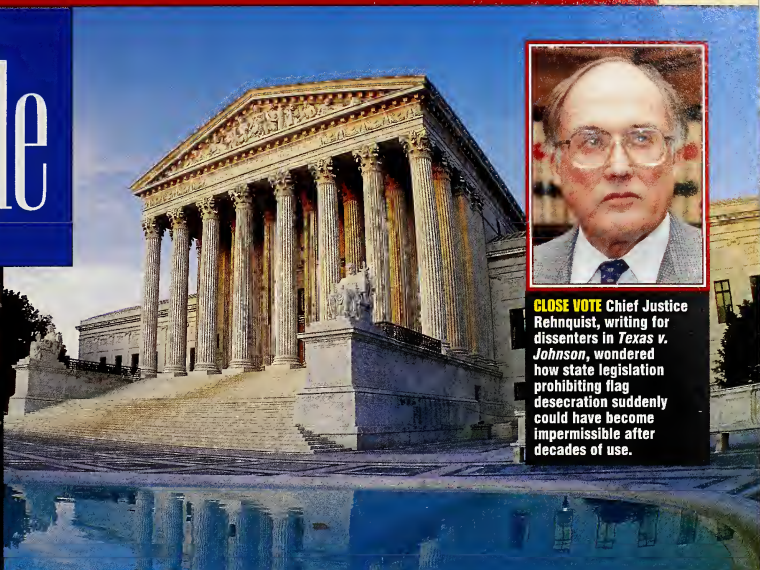


Stephen B. Presser is a professor of constitutional law and history at Northwestern University School of Law in Evanston, Ill.

the People



J. SEPTIMUS ANDERSON/DOE



CLOSE VOTE Chief Justice Rehnquist, writing for dissenters in *Texas v. Johnson*, wondered how state legislation prohibiting flag desecration suddenly could have become impermissible after decades of use.

'If there is one clear principle in current Supreme Court jurisprudence, it is that the Supreme Court will hold that any statute dealing with the flag is interference with purported First Amendment freedoms.' Stephen B. Presser

racy, in popular sovereignty, and deserves support for that reason alone.

Second, I believe the flag-protection amendment is a small but vital step in returning us to a constitutional path from which we have strayed and in redressing a delicate balance that has become dangerously skewed.

Our framers understood there were two important elements to the constitutional tradition we inherited from Great Britain—a liberty element and a responsibility element. Without liberty, we could not hope to realize the aspirations toward religious freedom and republican government for which the United States was

colonized and later declared independent. But the framers also realized that without responsibility, without order, without submission to the rule of law, there could be no protection for life, limb and property, and there could be no lasting liberty.

It was one of the goals of the Constitution's framers to foster a sense of community among all citizens of our republic, to secure a certain baseline of civilized behavior. Many of our judges, and the majority of the Supreme Court in the two flag decisions in particular, appear to have gone too far in embracing an individualistic constitutional jurisprudence and to have forgotten other elements in our political and constitutional tradition.

It was the genius of our Constitution and of much of our political history that we usually managed to grant more individual freedom than was available in any other country but to balance it by community-centered restraints.

When the Supreme Court's majority, in its *Johnson* decision, created a single symbolic meaning for the flag, its apotheosis of individual self-expression, it betrayed a fundamental misunderstanding of America's founding.

If there is a single message I've understood from 25 years of teaching and writing about our laws and Constitution, it is that each time we move too far in one direction, there is a reaction, sometimes a violent one. In recent years we have

been living through a period in which this delicate balance of constitutional philosophies and purposes has gone awry. We are at a point where the personal liberty element of our tradition has, in effect, spun out of constitutional control. It has become commonplace to lament the decline in national standards and morality. It is rarely recognized that a significant part of the problem is that many of the people and the courts have forgotten what the Constitution, and perhaps even the flag, stood for.

Recent events in America such as the riots following the first Rodney King trial several years ago, the explosion in out-of-wedlock births, the increase in mindless and random acts of violence, or even the recent widespread failure of many governmental officials to abide by the simplest moral principles or the rule of law, are products of our failure as a constitutional society. That's a failure to remember that with individual liberty ought to come basic decency and responsibility. □

THE STOCK MARKET INDICTS A REMISS WORLD.

Conduct Unbecoming Free Speech

THE freedom of speech, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, while often threatened, has withstood the assaults of those who would seek to deny it to us. It has proved to be one of our most important freedoms, but we must maintain constant vigilance that neither is it abused. Flag burning is a lurid abuse of that right. Moreover, it is alarming that one of our most cherished freedoms would be used to protect the desecration of our flag.

The exact nature of the First Amendment and what types of speech it protects has been argued ever since the adoption of the Constitution. Perhaps no other section of that great document has excited so much debate. Even today, there is still disagreement. Does it cover acts such as flag burning? Just what does it cover?

The Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law," but it says nothing about what states may do. In the 1964 case, *The New York Times v. Sullivan*, the Supreme Court ruled that states could not bar free speech any more than the federal government. This maintained the su-

Armstrong Williams is a nationally syndicated columnist. He wrote Stopping the Hate for the September 1997 issue.

Free speech, one of the Four Freedoms, cannot be applied to flag burning, which is conduct—shabby and hateful conduct.

By Armstrong Williams

premacy of the Constitution, which guarantees the rights of all citizens. It is the law of the land, superseding state and local statutes.

Congress passed the Sedition Act in 1798, making it a crime to "write, print, utter or publish" anything negative about the government with intent to defame, or incite contempt or hatred of Congress or the president. At the time, it was deemed necessary to protect the government from a riotous public. It was a disaster, and Thomas Jefferson revoked the law when he took office in 1801.

Can you imagine if such a law existed today? Our country would be in chaos. I think it is safe to say that our fledgling nation would not have survived. Certainly, it would be a far different world today had that law been allowed to stand.

Threats to our freedoms did not end there. Our history has been a struggle to guaran-

tee to all Americans those inalienable rights with which we have been endowed by our Creator.

America is the land of the free, but that freedom has not come easy. Many are still denied the same freedoms most of us take for granted. Without the guarantee of our Constitution, we would be a sorry lot, afraid to do or say anything that might remotely cause harm to any group or individual. It is doubtful we would be the greatest nation in the world today if we were without that noble document. It puts into words our beliefs as Americans.

The U.S. Flag is another essential and powerful symbol of our great nation. It represents the strength of our unity and embodies the spirit of the phrase: "e pluribus unum." The Stars and Stripes symbolizes liberty, too. America is the "land of the free and the home of the brave," many of whom fought and died for their beloved country. These patriots did not sacrifice their lives so that others might abuse their God-given freedoms.

Many people feel it is their right to criticize and challenge authority. The right to rebel has been respected by philosophers, writers and other thinkers for centuries. They ask: Are we to deny ourselves and others that right and become simple and unthinking subjects of our government? No! We are not powerless subjects of an exclusive and insular regime. We, the people, are the source of authority, which is the basis of democracy.

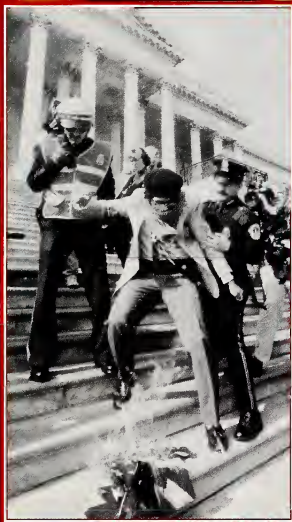
There is, however, a distinction to be drawn between constructive criticism and destructive opposition. Discourse on our particular brand of democracy should never aim to weaken our system of government. The goal of dialogue is to improve and build, not tear down; to move forward and not regress.

While free speech is one of the four freedoms protected by the First Amendment, it cannot be applied to flag burning. It is different from speech in that no words are spoken and nothing is written. It is a destructive act of disloyalty and should never be pro-



'An act of destruction can never be protected as a natural right'

Armstrong Williams



INCENDIARY ACT

Scott Tyler of Chicago was arrested on the steps of the U.S. Capitol immediately after testing the Flag Protection Act of 1989.

OTIS/OWEN

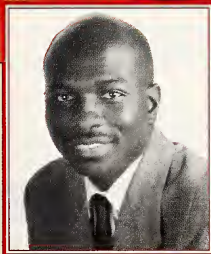


PHOTO: J. MICHAEL JOHNSON

ted as a right. No part of the Constitution, however loosely interpreted, can be used to defend such conduct.

Timothy McVeigh blew up the Alfred Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City out of anger to protest the government's action against the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. He was wrong to use violence. If citizens are dissatisfied or upset with government policy, there are many other peaceful, nondestructive avenues to make your grievances known.

Ted Kaczynski felt threatened by what he perceived to be the growing and unregulated power of technology and also reacted violently, sending letter bombs to those who he felt in some way symbolized what he feared. Such behavior, however rationalized, cannot be tolerated. As citizens of the United States of America, we all must respect and follow the same laws and rules of conduct.

An act of destruction can

never be protected as a natural and legal right. That is why it is so important for us to pass an amendment to the Constitution to protect the U.S. Flag from those who would desecrate it. The argument that the act of flag burning is protected under the First Amendment is ill-founded and mistaken. No one can argue that conduct is the same as speech. As we protect the one, we also must ensure the other is not abused.

An amendment to protect our national symbol—the U.S. Flag—is not only necessary, it

flag from malicious destruction.

An amendment to protect the flag is not a drastic move and will not endanger our rights. It will not curtail our right to free speech, as some claim, because physical desecration is an act—a destructive act that cannot logically be protected under the mantle of free speech.

George Washington believed that the Constitution was made more perfect each time it was amended. The first 10 amendments greatly improved that document. Yet,

is the moral thing to do. To stand idly by and allow the desecration of our flag is an outrage, and most Americans will not—should not—tolerate such behavior. All citizens who truly love their country should support protecting our

they seemed to raise as many questions as they answered. Thomas Jefferson, in his inaugural address on March 4, 1801, offered to let all those with whom we disagree “stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.” That might be true when it comes to speaking one's mind, but desecration of our nation's flag cannot “stand undisturbed.” The way to protect Old Glory is through a constitutional amendment, and the U.S. Senate should listen to the majority of Americans who support it. It's the right thing to do, and the time is now. □

The Mirage of Slippery Slopes

Thanks to *Article*
1, constitutional
amendments get
close and
prolonged
consideration.

By Richard Parker



SLOW BURN San Francisco demonstrators consign Old Glory to the fire. About 60 incidents of flag desecration have occurred in the last four years.

SUPPORTING the flag amendment is a way of supporting freedom of speech. Does that surprise you? If you followed only the media's coverage of the issue, it would. For the media—like most opponents of the amendment—insist on framing the question as “protecting the flag versus protecting free speech.” This is a clever move. But it is a misleading, cynical maneuver. It is time to set things straight. I want to make five points.

Richard Parker is a professor of constitutional law at Harvard University and the author of Here, the People Rule.

Because our opponents have distorted the issue, I'll start by countering their most negative arguments. Then I'll make the case for the amendment as a much-needed enhancement of freedom of speech.

We're often told the flag amendment would “amend the First Amendment.” This is nonsense. All it would “amend” is a recent mistake by the Supreme Court.

For more than 200 years, constitutional lawyers—beginning with James Madison, the “father” of the First Amendment—believed that the people, through their government, could protect their flag from desecration. The people exercised the power. No one supposed it abridged the freedom of speech. In our

own era, great champions of free speech endorsed the practice. One was Justice Hugo Black, the leader in developing modern First Amendment law. Another was Chief Justice Earl Warren. The practice and endorsement of flag protection is, therefore, both deeply rooted and of very long standing in our constitutional tradition.

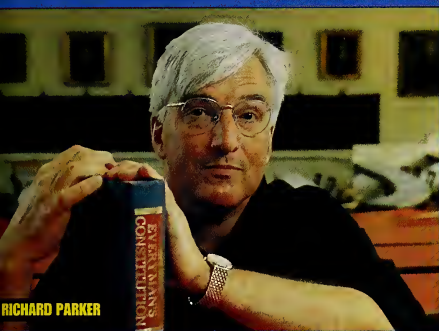
THE disruption came only in 1989. That was when a narrow majority of the justices, by 5-4 vote, suddenly decided to “read” the First Amendment as forbidding specific protection of the American flag. This decision would be surgically removed by the proposed amendment.

The First Amendment itself

will, of course, remain wholly intact; it will simply have restored to it the meaning long taken completely for granted.

Opponents of the flag amendment, nonetheless, are addicted to exaggeration. In alarm, they go on to insist it would open the door to imprisonment of individuals who paint pictures or wear clothing or advertise businesses with an image of the flag. Even worse, they say, it would start us down a slippery slope, “amending away” all of our freedom of speech, step by step. This is absurd.

The amendment, in fact, is very limited. All it would do is permit Congress (not the states) to protect an actual “flag” (not an image of a flag) from physical desecration—



RICHARD PARKER



NORMAN ROCKWELL

'The aim of the amendment is not to protect anyone's 'feelings' but to enhance at its very foundation the freedom of speech.'

Richard Parker

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can flag, unlike some others, does not represent just one "point of view." It does not stand for one party or one government. It is, as the dissenting justices insisted, "unique." It stands for our nation, for what we have in common, above our differences.

BY authorizing the flag's protection, the proposed amendment, therefore, would squelch no viewpoint. Those wanting to express any message would be free to do so by any means other than trashing a flag. A minimal respect for our national community—as symbolized by the American flag—would simply be recognized as separate from contention among diverse points of view.

Opponents of the flag amendment try to trivialize it, claiming it's meant to protect the feelings of a minority of hypersensitive people. (Patriots are the ones they have in mind.) This, they say, undermines free speech. But they miss the point. For the aim of the amendment is not to protect anyone's "feelings," but to enhance—at its very foundation—the freedom of speech.

A robust system of free speech—of wide-open disagreement with one another—depends, at bottom, on connection to one another. It depends on community. It depends on some agreement that, despite our differences, we are one, that the problem of any American is our problem. Without this much connection, why listen to one another? Why not just see who can yell louder and who is stronger? Civil-rights leaders understood the danger. They saw the importance, especially to minorities appealing to majorities, of respect for the value—and the unique symbol—of national community. That is why they displayed the American flag so proudly in the great marches of the 1960s.

Respect for this value—

and so the foundation of free speech—has eroded. Special-interest groups and elitists of all sorts celebrate not connection but separatism. They might say smugly they love the flag. But they instruct us that the flag stands, now, for the freedom to desecrate it. Where will this leave a Martin Luther King Jr. of tomorrow?

The number of incidents of flag desecration, about 60 in the last four years, is not the heart of the matter. What matters most is our response to them. The key response has been that of the court. By degrading our symbol of national community to a "point of view" in competition with that of a flag burner, by doing so in the name of the First Amendment, the five justices did real damage to opportunity for effective exercise of rights under that amendment. To undo the damage we have one recourse. That is to exercise our right under Article V of the Constitution.

EXERCISING the right to amend the Constitution is participation in—and a test of—our system of freedom of speech. Because it's an uphill struggle, it calls for commitment to the possibility of open debate. Yet, because it threatens elite control over the Constitution, it calls up, in opposition, the most repressive instincts. Opponents of the flag amendment wrap themselves in the mantle of free speech, but they routinely mock it. Robotically, they repeat the same so-called arguments, irresponsibly trivializing and exaggerating the effect of the proposed amendment, blankly ignoring the case for it.

This is the test of our own faith in the freedom of speech. This is our chance to show that, while our opponents are afraid of open debate, while they try to shut it down, we will make clear to all that it is we, not they, who are the true supporters of the First Amendment. □

COURTESY PETER LINDBERGH

burning it, urinating on it, defecating on it. Congress would be allowed to prohibit such acts, but the amendment does not specify imprisonment. Its carefully focused language is answer enough to the pretended fears of its potential application.

BASIC constitutional safeguards give the lie, moreover, to panic over a "slippery slope." Whatever law Congress enacts must win the support of both houses. It is subject to presidential veto. Judges and juries oversee the case-by-case enforcement of any law. And if others were to go on and promote other, broader constitutional amendments, they'd face the process of ratification. More

than 11,000 amendments have been proposed. Only 27 have been ratified. If there's a slope, it runs uphill.

Although you might not know it from the scare rhetoric typical of our opponents, the United States should not be confused with Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union.

This confusion is, in fact, the crux of the court's mistake. Its 1989 decision turned on a claim that, in singling out our national symbol for protection, government was discriminating in favor of one "point of view"—and against competing "points of view." Discrimination among competing views does, indeed, violate a basic First Amendment principle. But the justices misapplied the principle. For the Ameri-

An Amendment For Freedom

NINE years ago, by a vote of 371-43 in the House of Representatives and 91-9 in the Senate, Congress passed The Flag Protection Act of 1989. Responding to the Texas v. Johnson decision in which the Supreme Court ruled that flag desecration is protected free speech under the First Amendment, the House and Senate overwhelmingly voted in favor of a statute which stated: *Whoever knowingly mutilates, defaces, physically defiles, burns, maintains on the ground, or tramples upon any flag of the United States shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.*

This subsection does not prohibit the disposal of a flag when it has become worn or soiled. As used in this section, the term "flag of the United States" means any flag of the United States, or any part thereof, made of any substance, of any size, in a form that is commonly displayed.



DESECRATION The use of Old Glory in "art" like this has had the effect of making Americans sensitive to the issue of flag protection.

Clearly, Congress was outraged at the high court's decision, as were the majority of the American people. However, the statute did not pass without debate. There were some who wanted a constitutional amendment guaranteeing Congress the power to protect the flag. Others wanted to give the statute a chance, arguing not to amend the Constitution before seeing if a statute would be sustained.

A few months later, the Supreme Court struck down the federal statute. In no uncertain terms, the high court opined that a law seeking to protect the flag from desecration violated the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech. Further, the court strongly implied that no statute could be crafted to coexist with the First Amendment because desecrating the flag represented a legitimate point of view that deserved constitutional protection.

It was at this point that flag-protection proponents switched to advocating a constitutional amendment that would do no more than enable Congress to again pass the same statute to protect the flag that had been previously struck down by the Supreme Court.

A large number of senators are in the curious position of having voted for the 1989 statute but now oppose an amendment that would allow them to re-enact that statute! Many claim they do not wish to amend the Constitu-

If a flag-protection law is a good idea, a flag-protection amendment is an essential one.

By Daniel S. Wheeler

tion. But this reasoning is specious if the only result would be to sustain a statute they had previously voted for.

IF a member voted for the 1989 statute, presumably he or she felt it was consistent with the First Amendment. Why then would such an individual now believe that a flag-protection amendment, narrowly drawn, would not be consistent with the First Amendment? The only logical and consistent position for a supporter of the 1989 statute now must be to support the flag amendment.

Ratification of this amendment by 38 state legislatures would clearly declare: "We, the people, believe Congress is capable of passing reasonable federal statutes to protect Old Glory from acts of physical desecration."

The amendment is about freedom. It's about freedom of speech. It's about the most important freedom of speech of all: the right of the American people to be heard on an issue that is important to them.

It's about letting we, the people, decide whether or not laws will reflect the values of

the citizenry. It's about making a bold statement that tolerance of abhorrent behavior has its limits. It's about saying loudly and clearly that we, the American people, will not—under any circumstances—tolerate behavior that we know to be evil and contrary to the civility necessary if free speech is to flourish in our society.

These senators need to hear from you now. If they voted for The Flag Protection Act of 1989, they agree with 80 percent of the American people that the Supreme Court ruling was wrong and that the flag deserves protection. The same arguments that made the statute the right vote in 1989 also argue for a YES vote for an amendment in 1998.

Thank them for their 1989 vote. And for the very same reasons, urge them to vote for the flag-protection amendment. ☐

Daniel S. Wheeler is the president of The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. He's also the executive director of American Legion National Headquarters at Indianapolis and former publisher/editor-in-chief of this magazine.

WHERE YOUR SENATORS STAND ON THE FLAG AMENDMENT

CO-SPONSORS OF THE FLAG-PROTECTION AMENDMENT

Abraham, Spencer (R-Mich)
Allard, Wayne (R-Colo)
Ashcroft, John (R-Mo)
Baucus, Max (D-Mont)
Bond, Christopher (R-Mo)
Breaux, John (D-La)
Brownback, Sam (R-Kan)
Burns, Conrad (R-Mont)
Campbell, Ben Nighthorse (R-Colo)
Cleveland, Max (D-Ga)
Coats, Dan (R-Ind)
Cochran, Thad (R-Miss)
Collins, Susan (R-Maine)
Coverdell, Paul (R-Ga)
Craig, Larry (R-Idaho)
D'Amato, Alfonse (R-NY)
DeWine, Mike (R-Ohio)
Domenici, Pete (R-NM)
Enzi, Michael (R-Wyo)
Faircloth, Lauch (R-NC)
Feinstein, Dianne (D-Cal)
Ford, Wendell (D-Ky)
Frist, Bill (R-Tenn)
Gorton, Slade (R-Wash)
Graham, Bob (D-Fla)
Gramm, Phil (R-Texas)
Grass, Rod (R-Minn)
Grassley, Charles (R-Iowa)
Gregg, Judd (R-NH)
Hagel, Chuck (R-Neb)
Hatch, Orrin (R-Utah)
Helms, Jesse (R-NC)
Hollings, Ernest (D-SC)
Hutchinson, Tim (R-Ark)
Hutchinson, Kay Bailey (R-Texas)
Inhofe, James (R-Okla)
Johnson, Tim (D-SD)
Kempthorne, Dirk, (R-Idaho)
Kyl, Jon (R-Ariz)



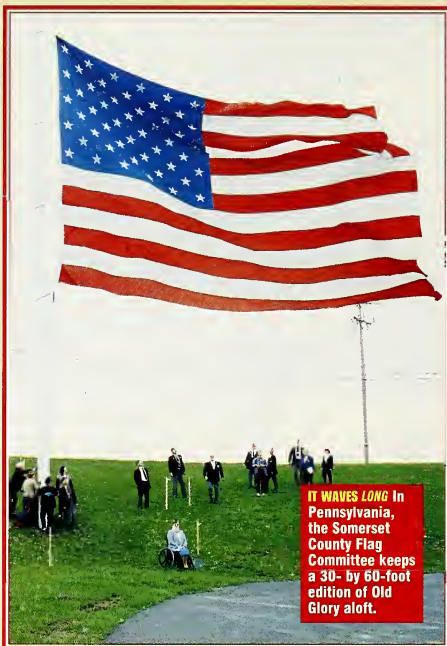
Lott, Trent (R-Miss)
Lugar, Richard (R-Ind)
Mack, Connie (R-Fla)
McCain, John (R-Ariz)
Murkowski, Frank (R-Alaska)
Roberts, Pat (R-Kan)
Rockefeller, John (D-WV)
Roth, William (R-Dei)
Santorum, Rick (R-Penn)
Sessions, Jeff (R-Ala)
Shelby, Richard (R-Ala)
Smith, Gordon (R-Ore)
Smith, Robert (R-NH)
Snowe, Olympia (R-Maine)
Specter, Arlen (R-Pa)
Stevens, Ted (R-Alaska)
Thomas, Craig (R-Wyo)
Thompson, Fred (R-Tenn)
Thurmond, Strom (R-SC)
Warner, John (R-Va)

THOSE WHO HAVE YET TO BECOME CO-SPONSORS

Akaka, Daniel (D-Hawaii)
Bennett, Robert (R-Utah)
Biden, Joseph (D-Dei)
Bingaman, Jeff (D-NM)
Boxer, Barbara (D-Calif)
Bryan, Richard (D-Nev)
Bumpers, Dale (D-Ark)
Byrd, Robert (D-WV)
Chafee, John (R-RI)
Conrad, Kent (D-ND)
Daschle, Thomas (D-SD)
Dodd, Christopher (D-Conn)
Dorgan, Byron (D-ND)
Durbin, Richard (D-III)
Feingold, Russ (D-Wisc)
Glenn, John (D-Ohio)
Harkin, Tom (D-Iowa)
Inouye, Daniel (D-Hawaii)
Jeffords, Jim (R-Vt)
Kennedy, Edward (D-Mass)

Kerrey, Robert (D-Neb)
Kerry, John (D-Mass)
Kohl, Herbert (D-Wisc)
Landrieu, Mary (D-La)
Lautenberg, Frank (D-NJ)
Leahy, Patrick (D-Vt)
Levin, Carl (D-Mich)
Lieberman, Joseph (D-Conn)
McConnell, Mitch (R-Ky)
Mikulski, Barbara (D-Md)
Moseley-Braun, Carol (D-III)
Moynihan, Daniel (D-NY)
Murray, Patty (D-Wash)
Reed, Jack (D-RI)
Robb, Charles (D-Va)
Sarbanes, Paul (D-Md)
Torricelli, Robert (D-NJ)
Wellstone, Paul (D-Minn)
Wyden, Ron (D-Ore)

Hard-Working Heroes



8 ETHS

THE WHOLE CLOTH

TRAVELERS approaching the Somerset exit on the western Pennsylvania Turnpike are greeted by a mammoth reminder that Old Glory retains an honored place among residents of this scenic, hilly region.

"You can see it [from] two miles away. We're very proud of it," says Legionnaire Jerry Zorn, speaking of the 30- by 60-foot U.S. Flag. Zorn, the department of Pennsylvania's western district commander,

says local veterans' groups, Scouts, the Daughters of the American Revolution and other local groups formed a committee in 1995 to promote patriotism and flag awareness.

Owners of a Ramada Inn near the turnpike offered a 99-year lease on a 110- by 50-foot plot where the committee erected a 120-foot flagpole and landscaped the grounds. Local Scouts and grade-school children help maintain the area, says Zorn, a member of Post 445 in Berlin. But

Americans everywhere show their colors by working to protect Old Glory.

why a giant flag, and why Somerset?

"Patriotism runs hot and cold," Zorn reasons. "We wanted to show we were proud of our country. We thought, 'Hey, come on, let's show the colors.' We got together, and it all worked out. We're trying to do everything we can to get people involved."

The Somerset County Flag Committee mobilized neighbors who share a profound love of country and its primary symbol. It takes a team effort to keep the flag flying. Each costs \$1,200 and lasts only six months.

"It's simply beautiful when the wind blows," says Zorn. The people of Somerset County got together for their country's flag—and it all worked out.

PATRIOTIC PARTNERS

POWERFUL partners like the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are shouldering the Citizens Flag Alliance mission in much the same way a strong coalition rallied for the Persian Gulf War.

The CFA consists of 126 organizations. The Elks work, just as The American Legion does, at the grass-roots level. For example, when the Gunnison, Colorado, Elks Lodge learned that the new elementary and middle schools in Gunnison and Crested Butte did not have classroom flags, it immediately enlisted several community organizations in raising money to purchase the flags.

When they delivered the flags, Gunnison Lodge also held a presentation for the schoolchildren on the history of the U.S. Flag. Elks often honor youth leaders, such as Eagle Scouts, with certificates and new flags or flag lapel pins for poster contest winners.

In the case of the flag-protection amendment, the Elks' dedication runs deep, as U.S. Sens. Edward Kennedy and John Kerry discovered in late 1997, when many of the 52,000 members of the Massachusetts Elks Association staged a letter-writing campaign urging support of **Senate Joint Resolution 40**.

"We wish to lead the battle to stop desecration of this national symbol, our American flag," wrote one Elks official. "We ask your assistance in leading this battle here in Massachusetts and in the legislature in Washington."

Kennedy and Kerry voted against the amendment in 1995, but hearing such words from constituents might change their minds this time. The same holds true for all senators; they must be reminded they represent Americans who want their flag protected, and the Elks—service-minded, patriotic, courteous and resolved—have taken up the duty.

CAMPAIGN TRAIN

THE *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign is high-balling through the Yakima Valley with Legionnaires of Washington's James H. Schooley Post 130 at the throttle. Post 130 serves Zillah, a small, dynamic community whose population (2,300) has more than doubled since the last census. Zillah celebrates its festival, Zillah Day, May 9, and Post 130 got more than double duty out of its "Locy" this year.

Explains Post commander Roger Ours: "'Locy' is a parade vehicle based on a medium-truck chassis. It looks like a locomotive and its tender. Our Locy is decorated with The American Legion and The

American Legion Auxiliary emblems. The 'tender' area can hold 10 to 15 people."

This year the growing Zillah Day festival featured an antique car show across town from the main craft, concession, ride and celebration area. Post 130's Locy, with additional crewing led by Post Vice Commander Jack White and Post Chaplain Bob Lewis, offered shuttle service from the car show to a point convenient to the rest of the festival.

"It's a convenience to our visitors and helps reduce traffic congestion a bit," Ours says. "And our approach to ticketing was that we didn't take tickets; we gave every passenger *Show Your Colors, America!* material."

OUR TOWN

MORENCI, Mich., in mid-April stood up for the *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign at a city council meeting attended by four Legionnaires and Auxiliary Unit President Deb Topps. The Legion family of the 2,500-member community had petitioned Mayor Russ Sutherland for a proclamation endorsing the efforts of the Citizens' Flag Alliance to return

to the American people the right to protect their flag.

Sutherland, a past commander of Morenci Post 368, quickly obliged. His proclamation cited The American Legion's mission to safeguard the principles of justice, freedom and democracy

and encouraged all residents to join in the Memorial Day to Veterans Day *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign.

"Seeking this proclamation was just our first project in the *Show Your Colors* campaign," reports Jimmy Topps, husband to the Unit Auxiliary president and a director of the Department CFA effort. "Local Cub and Boy Scout units responded enthusiastically when we talked to them about door-to-door hanger distribution of CFA material. They were ready to go with this before it was delivered."

"On Memorial Day, we dedicated a new flagpole the Post provided for our Little League diamond, which was another opportunity to stand up for the flag amendment before the public," says Topps.

TEEN ON A MISSION

ON the volleyball court, 17-year-old Jodi Murphy likes nothing better than to spike the ball. On Capitol Hill, Murphy hopes proponents of the flag-protection amendment in Congress will bring their undecided colleagues to their side of the court.

The good guys will win if this ambitious young woman has a say in the matter.

As the Department of Florida Junior president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Murphy has dedicated most of

her tenure to convincing members of the House and Senate that protecting the flag of the United States from physical desecration is the right thing to do. Her weapon of choice: letter-writing.

"Sen. Connie Mack supported us early on," Murphy says, "but Sen. Bob Graham didn't. Thanks in part to an intense, grassroots letter-writing campaign, however, we have finally persuaded Graham to co-sponsor the flag-protection legislation. That's a major victory for us." It brought the number of flag-amendment co-sponsors to 61.

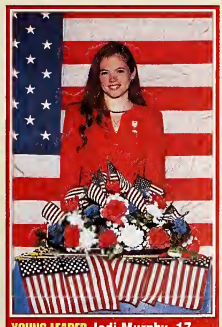
At press time, Murphy was making plans to teach fellow Juniors about the flag-protection campaign at an upcoming camp and leadership training conference. Murphy says she briefs the girls about what the amendment is and exactly why it is needed. Then, younger Juniors color flag-related pictures while older ones write letters. The materials are mailed to members of Congress—thanking supporters or encouraging those who have yet to co-sponsor to seriously consider doing so. □



TO THE COLORS (From left) Jack Sampson, Mayor Russ Sutherland, Jim Topps and Jerry Bach celebrate Sutherland's proclamation of the *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign.



GOOD TRAINING Legion Post 130 of Zillah, Wash., uses its "Locy" to distribute *Show Your Colors, America!* literature.



YOUNG LEADER Jodi Murphy, 17, dedicates her work on the flag amendment to her late grandmother, Emily Sinclair.

Old Glory, Young Views

High school essayists rally to save the U.S. Flag from physical desecration.

YOUNG adults have registered their support for the flag amendment through the Citizens Flag Alliance Essay Contest, *The American Flag Protection Amendment: A Right of the People... The Right Thing to Do*. The goal of the contest is to inspire students in grades 9 through 12 to study government and the U.S. Constitution. Entries were judged on clarity and

strength of argumentation, quality and originality, and understanding of citizens' rights to petition their government under the U.S. Constitution.

Department winners earned \$1,000 scholarships and advanced to compete for 10 national scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 (national winners had not been named at press time).

Each winning entry not only reflected strong writing skills but also displayed remarkable perception regarding protecting the symbol of the Union. For example, here is an excerpt from New Mexico's Department winner, Kelly Jaramillo of Belen High School:

"Cannonballs sear the ominous heavens as hell unfurls its fury. The battle rages on...falling sparks illuminate the battlefield of land and water. Darkness shrouds the combatants, and yet the conflict rages with a newfound ferocity

and undying determination. Morning unveils a wasteland, punctuated with craters, bodies and sinking ships; morning reveals the destruction of Fort McHenry.

"Yet, one symbol stands proud and tall upon the bank of desolation; withered but persevering, one symbol advocates liberty and independence. That symbol, the United States Flag, boldly defied the British onslaught during the War of 1812 and simultaneously exemplified the very soul of America—her tenacity, her hunger for justice and freedom.

"Although America's flag may have withstood the enemy in 1812, now, near the turn of the 21st century, it lies vulnerable to yet another attack, an attack on its physical integrity, an attack of legalized desecration, an attack in which the factors of political legitimacy—tradition, ideas and effectiveness—are endangered and susceptible to extinction."

Other essayists, like Camille Edmison, the Department of Arkansas winner who attends the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences in Perryville, pointed to veterans' sacrifices and questioned the purpose of flag-burning protests:

"When 26 million Americans fought for the flag to fly in the name of freedom, why nullify what they fought for? Disgracing the flag does just that. It makes a mockery of death, toil, anguish and the pain of families everywhere who sacrificed lives, money, and time to preserve democracy for us and others around the world. It



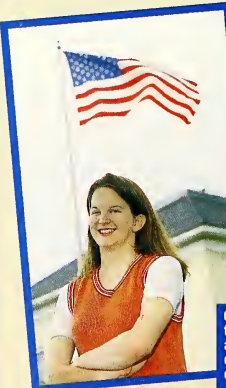
KELLY JARAMILLO "One symbol stands proud and tall upon the bank of desolation...one symbol advocates liberty and independence. That symbol, the United States Flag..."

casts a haze over the light of democracy that each life helped to build and preserve. It makes hypocrites of those who would send Americans to fight for a noble cause but then at the same time protect the 'right' to deny the people the full meaning of what is being fought for, by allowing it to be burnt.

"Flag desecration serves no purpose to the protester. The disgust and outrage produced by passersby viewing a 'peaceful flag-burning protest' far outweighs the message the protester is trying to convey. The attention is on the action of the protester, not his message, no matter how important it may be.

"It is in his best interest to use productive means of protest, as his safety and [the] potency of his message are at risk when burning or otherwise desecrating the flag."

The next generation has spoken, and its message is clear: Let the people decide if they want Old Glory protected.



CAMILLE EDMISON "Disgracing the flag...makes a mockery of death, toil and anguish, and the pain of families everywhere who sacrificed lives, money and time to preserve democracy."

An Urgent Call To Action



AS SUPPORTERS of the proposed flag-protection amendment, **Senate Joint Resolution 40**, there are a number of ways your help can steer the amendment to victory.

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS

If they are co-sponsors, thank them for their support; if they're not, urge them to sup-

port the amendment, tell them why you favor it and remind them that an overwhelming number of their constituents believe as you do.

When writing your letter, state your support for the amendment in the first paragraph. Identify the amendment as **SJR 40**. Be courteous and concise as to why the amendment is necessary. Address your letters to: The Honorable (full name), United States Senate, Washington,

DC 20510.

Your senators' offices also can be reached by calling the Capitol switchboard at **(202) 224-3121**. Senators also have offices in their home states and their telephone numbers can be found under "U.S. Government" in the blue pages.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your local newspapers can provide a forum for your views on the flag-protection amend-

ment. Senators and their staffs place great stock in what their constituents at home are saying about the issues. It's possible readers in your community are not aware **SJR 40** will soon be voted on and your letter might persuade others to join the campaign. Make your letter succinct. Speak from the heart.

SHOW YOUR COLORS, AMERICA!

This special campaign unfurled Memorial Day weekend and continues through Veterans Day. Continue to fly Old Glory daily and encourage your family, friends, neighbors, and local civic, government and business offices to do so.

Your Post can be used for special events related to the flag-protection and flag-education programs. Be sure to contact local news organizations in advance to cover your events. For more information about *Show Your Colors, America!*, call **(800) 424-FLAG**.

It's important members of The American Legion family and The Citizens Flag Alliance act now because the vote in the Senate could come at any time. □



Anthony G. Jordan

ANTHONY G. JORDAN
NATIONAL COMMANDER OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION

CFA Membership Roll



AMVETS

African-American Women's Clergy Assn.
Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Alliance of Women Veterans
American Diamond Veterans, Nat'l Assn.
American GI Forum of the U.S.
American GI Forum of the U.S. Founding Chapter
The American Legion
American Legion Auxiliary
American Merchant Marine Veterans
American War Mothers
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Association of the U.S. Army
Baltic Women's Council
Benevolent & Protective Order of the Elks
Bunker Hill Monument Association, Inc.
Catholic Family Life Insurance
Catholic War Veterans
The Chosin Few
Croatian American Association
Croatian Catholic Union
Czech Catholic Union
Czechoslovak Christian Democracy in the USA
Daughters of the American Colonists
Drum Corps Associates
Dust Off Association
Eight & Forty (des Huit Cheapeaux et Quarante Femmes)

Enlisted Association
National Guard U.S. Family Research Council
Fleet Reserve Association
Forty & Eight (La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux)
Fox Associates, Inc.
The General Society, Sons of the Revolution
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
Grand Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles
Grand Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police
Grand Lodge of Masons of Oklahoma
Great Council of Texas, Order of Red Men
Hungarian Association
Hungarian Reformed Federation of America
Just Marketing, Inc.
Knights of Columbus
Korean American Assn. of Greater Washington
Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of WWI
MBNA America Marine Corps League
Marine Corps Mustang Assn., Inc.
Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association
Medal of Honor Recipients for the Flag
Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A.
The Military Order of the World Wars
Moose International

CFA member organizations now total 126,
representing more than 20 million
Americans who favor flag protection.

Nat'l Alliance of Families for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen

Nat'l Association for Uniformed Services

Nat'l Assn. of State Veterans' Affairs, Inc.

National Center for Public Policy Research

National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Assn.

National FFA Organization

Nat'l Federation of American Hungarians, Inc.

Nat'l Federation of State High School Assns.

National Grange
National Guard Association of the U.S.

Nat'l League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in SE Asia

National Officers Association (NOA)

Nat'l Organization of World War Nurses

National Service Star Legion

National Sojourners, Inc.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

National Twenty & Four

National Vietnam Veterans Coalition
Native Daughters of the Golden West

Native Sons of the Golden West

Navajo Codetalkers Association

Navy League of the U.S.

Navy Seabee Veterans of America

Navy Seabee Veterans of America Auxiliary

Non-Commissioned Officers Association

The Orchard Lakes Schools

PAC Pennsylvania Eastern Division

Past National Commander's Organization

Patrol Craft Sailors Association

Polish American Congress

Polish Army Veterans Association

Polish Falcons of America

Polish Falcons of America, District II

Polish Home Army

Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. Ladies Auxiliary

Polish National Alliance

Polish National Union

Polish Roman Catholic Union of North America

Polish Scouting Organization

Polish Western Association

Polish Women's Alliance

The Reserve Officers Association

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

Robinson International

Ruritan National

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Northern Jurisdiction

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction

The Seniors Coalition

63rd Infantry Division Association, USA

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Sons of The American Legion

Sons of the Revolution in the State of Wisconsin

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce

U.S.A. Letters, Inc.

U.S.C.G. Chief Petty Officers Association

Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Institute

Texas Society Sons of The American Revolution

The Travelers Protective Association

The Ukrainian Gold Cross

The Uniformed Services Association

United Armed Forces Association

U.S. Coast Guard Enlisted Association

U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association

U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce

U.S.A. Letters, Inc.

U.S.C.G. Chief Petty Officers Association

Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Institute

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 566

VietNow

Virginia War Memorial Foundation

WAVES National

Women's Army Corps Veterans Association

Women's Overseas Service League

Woodmen of the World

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KOREA'S



LINGERING GRASP

By James Brady

IT was a strange war in a small country far away, and it ended 45 years ago this month. And in the three years and one month that it lasted, nearly as many Americans died as in the decade of Vietnam.

For some, Korea is sloughed off as a "forgotten war," which is understandable, falling as it did between World War II, the great historical event of this century, and Vietnam, which resonated so bitterly here at home. But Korea is worth remembering, and not only for the 54,000 who were killed there and the 8,100 still listed as missing in action.

It successfully (unlike Vietnam) prevented the communist takeover of a free country. It ended the career of one of our greatest generals, Douglas MacArthur. It helped define Harry Tru-

In a strange, far-away land, Americans paid the price for another nation's freedom.

man's presidency. It demonstrated that, given the right circumstances, a usually impotent United Nations could act decisively and effectively against aggression. And what happened in Korea gave stunning pause to Red China and its vast army. A much smaller force of





STARS AND STRIPES Before the battle for Seoul was over, Marine PFC Luther Leguire had Old Glory flying over the U.S. consulate.

.....
COLD FRONT On the move from Koto-ri, Marines take a break.

.....
WAR DOG A young James Brady, near Panmunjon (inset).



a half dozen U.S. divisions, a fine British Commonwealth division, a scattering of French, Greek, Turkish and other detachments, and the muddled and largely lackluster Republic of Korea armed forces stopped 40 Chinese divisions.

THE first year of the war was dramatic with spectacular dashes up and down the peninsula (a third bigger than Florida and roughly the same shape if you reverse the "panhandles"), brilliant end runs (the Inchon landing), and traps being laid (at the Yalu River and the Chosin Reservoir). But from then on, it was largely a static war with trenches and bunkers and barbed wire and mortars and night raids and shelling. For the men who fought in Picardy and Flanders Fields in 1917, Korea would have seemed familiar. Lee's men and McClellan's, slogging through the Peninsula Campaign east of Richmond, also would have recognized the fighting.

There were planes, of course, and warships, and tanks. Artillery, too, plentiful and quite good on both sides, and mines, always the mines. But if ever a "modern" war belonged to the rifleman and other infantry, this one did.

The First World War gave us Hemingway and Faulkner, and *Over There* and *All Quiet on the Western Front*. World War II was Leon Uris and Mailer and James Jones and *Mister Roberts* and the best love songs and war movies ever. Vietnam is a cottage industry.

James Brady's celebrity profiles in Parade Magazine reach an estimated 80 million Americans every Sunday, and his columns in Advertising Age are must-reading on Madison Avenue and in the media. His latest novel is Gin Lane.

Korea was, creatively, a poor relation. Some solid histories. A marvelous war journal, *The Last Parallel*, by Martin Russ. A couple of flicks. Some Ed Murrow television reports over CBS. David Douglas Duncan's black and white photos in *LIFE*. Marguerite Higgins' dispatches to *The New York Herald Tribune*. We didn't have a song. Not even a protest song. No Bob Dylan.

All Korea gave us was *M*A*S*H*.

I arrived in Korea Thanksgiving weekend of 1951, with the second winter of the war coming on, a replacement second lieutenant to join Dog Company of the 7th Marines as a rifle-platoon leader. Dog Company, with the 1st Marine Division, was still in North Korea, dug in and holding a series of ridgelines 2-3,000 feet high, stretching from the seacoast into the country's interior. There was already a foot of snow on the ridges and plenty more on the higher mountains to our north and west, some of them running to 6,000 feet and higher. In the valley between us and the North Koreans ambled a puny stream called the Soyang-Gang. To our right we could see the Sea of Japan with, at a distance, a cruiser and accompanying destroyers, looking like a child's toys.

CAPT. John Chafee of Rhode Island was the company commander. He had fought on Guadalcanal as a rifleman and on Okinawa as a platoon leader. A graduate of Yale and of Harvard Law and a married man, he was now back to fight again—as were so many reservists of all branches. Chafee later would be governor of his state and secretary of the Navy. Today he is a U.S. senator. None of that mattered in 1951, only how well he commanded 200 Marines in combat.

The company was short two officers when Mack Allen of Lynchburg, Virginia, and I arrived. Bob Simonis was there, a fellow we knew at the Quantico Marine training area in Virginia and, by now, something of a star for his daring night raid across the Soyang-Gang and up into enemy trenches. There was nothing impressive about Simonis in Virginia, quiet type; here the criteria were somewhat different. Allen fought as an enlisted Marine at the end of World War II and later graduated from Virginia Military Institute. I was green and was sure it showed. It didn't help much that the supply column we'd climbed with up to the main line of resistance included Marines



who'd been shot up taking this same ridgeline in the September offensive and were now coming back for another crack at the North Koreans. In Korea, they patched the wounded and sent them back up.

Understandably, such men weren't all that jolly. Mack understood such matters; I was scared by it. The ridgeline was called 749 (in terms of meters of altitude), and men who took it in September still spoke of having to pry the North Koreans out one at a time, dead or alive. Mostly dead. That fight reminded older Marines of "the big war." Along this ridgeline one of our platoons still shared the high ground with "the neighbors," the North Koreans, their trenches only 40 yards from ours.

Our first five days with Dog Company were something. A week before, Mack and I had been surfing at Waikiki Beach. The third or fourth night the North Koreans threw between four and five hundred rounds of mortar in 15 minutes, all of it on us, on Dog Company. And the instant the incoming ended, on came their infantry. Our machine guns, sighted along the outside apron of barbed wire, caught them there. Only one got through and some-

STREET BY STREET Three Marines return fire during a part of the fight for Seoul that progressed barricade by barricade.

OVER THE TOP Some Leathernecks had to use scaling ladders to strike inland from the beaches of Inchon.

OUT OF THE FIGHT On an improvised stretcher, a Chosin Reservoir casualty is carried to an aid station.

Korea is worth remembering, not only for the 54,000 troops who were killed there, but for the 8,100 still listed as missing.



KOREA'S LINGERING GRASP

the line at the end of February, they marched us through steaming communal showers and burned our clothes.

I was less green now, and had been promoted to first lieutenant and now served as Dog Company executive officer. When the snow melted and the mud dried, the expectation was that the Chinese army, lurking in the west and having grown enormous by now, would drive south once again to capture Seoul for the third time in a war not yet two years old. So the 1st Marine Division, with its reputation for effectiveness against the Chinese (who called us "yellow-legs," for our canvas leggings), was shifted a hundred miles to the west to defend the low hills north of the Imjin River about 25 miles from the Korean capital in a blocking position, masking the city.

It was in these 200-meter hills that the Marines battled the Chinese over the next 16 months until the cease-fire. It was hard fighting. Our battalion commander, Col. Noel C. Gregory, had made Mack the battalion adjutant. I was made the intelligence officer. Mack and I asked each other, what the hell does an adjutant do? An intelligence officer? Col. Gregory calmed

Please turn to page 54

one shot him on the roof of a bunker as he was attempting to shove a grenade down the chimney. At first light we went down to find a half-dozen dead North Koreans hanging in the wire. There was plenty of blood in the snow from their wounded retreating downhill. We followed them for awhile, tracking them by their blood, but didn't catch up. One of the Koreans had dysentery; he was gutshot and his stools were bloody.

Except for a couple of family wakes in Brooklyn and one car crash, I'd never seen a dead man before that night and morning.

Over that winter and into the spring we learned about each other. And we fought the North Koreans. Few men

froze that second winter; the boots and the cold-weather gear was better. But men lost feet stumbling onto uncharted mines. A February pneumonia swept the ranks. Marines shot other Marines by mistake and cracked up in their guilt. We killed North Koreans and peeled their bodies off the wire, and I found I could go through their pockets and not shudder, looking for maps, for ID, for intelligence. In one stretch we fought from Jan. 10 through Feb. 26, 46 days, along the ridgelines without relief or showers or a change of clothes. We spit coalblack from candles and lanterns used to light the bunkers, and a sergeant went mad from the wind howling through the ports of his bunker. When we came down off

LET FREEDOM ZING!



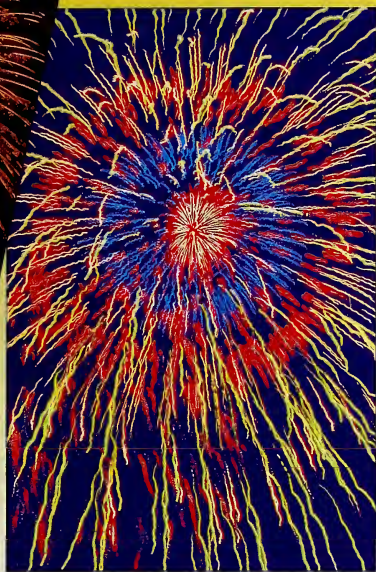
Filling the night sky of July 4 with flash and thunder demands an exacting artistry balanced on an inexact science.

By Jack Gebhardt

BLACK powder! The smell was unmistakable, irrevocable, sweet, sulfuric, prompting both exhilaration and dread.

The smell of it tinted the warm air as the sun set over Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. Representatives from each of the 13 colonies—this fragile Congress—had been meeting for months to decide the course of the country's destiny. Today they were ready, finally and formally, to announce the Declaration of Independence, which Thomas Jefferson had introduced six days before and adopted July 2. Citizens of Philadelphia had been gathering, shouting, firing their

*Jack Gebhardt, at 11, clenched a lit firecracker in his hand to prove that if you held it tight enough, it wouldn't hurt. He proved himself wrong. Luckily, he's now a 10-fingered full-time writer and author of *The Enlightened Smoker's Guide to Quitting*.*



JOHN ADAMS/ILLUSTRATION BY T. J. BROWN

'...[This day] will be celebrated with bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward evermore.'
—John Adams, 1776

LOOK UP Fireworks have been widely popular from the earliest colonial days, but the look has changed dramatically.

John Adams' prescience proved exact. Beginning the

flintlocks in the air, celebrating the brave decision.

As the sun set, each of the ships on the riverfront, which comprised the fledgling navy of the new United States, fired off 13 cannons to commemorate this new beginning. And then from the Commons, a large field west of Sixth Street, 13 rockets were fired into the sky, and then more cannons were fired, a bonfire was lit as backdrop for speeches, questions and explanations. As the gathering ended, yet another 13 rockets fired skyward.

THAT night, those who supported this seditious move showed their bravery by putting candles in their windows at home. The loyalists, not anxious for such a fight, kept their windows dark. A candle lit a window in John Adams' Philadelphia lodgings as he sat at his desk writing to his wife: "I am apt to believe that (this day) will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated...by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty (and) solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward evermore."

next year, and for every year thereafter, the celebration and illuminations have continued. Both he and Jefferson enjoyed the annual celebration for another 50 years to the day, dying within hours of each other on July 4, 1826.

The Fourth of July and fireworks now go together like ketchup and hot dogs, but fireworks had also been part of the colonial experience since the beginning. On the evening of July 24, 1608, "We fired a few rockets," wrote Captain John Smith, "which flying in the ayre, so terrified the poor savages that they supposed nothing impossible that we attempted; and desired to assist us."

In the colonies, little firecrackers were called "squibs," and were so popular that in 1731 a ban was passed in Rhode Island to dissuade "pranksters" from their mischief. George Washington's inauguration in 1789 was accompanied by a huge

BOOM TIMES More fireworks are ignited in this country on the Fourth of July than for any other national celebration in the world.

JOHN ADAMS/ILLUSTRATION BY T. J. BROWN

fireworks demonstration. It used the same formula for black powder (saltpeter, charcoal and sulfur) that was used in Columbus' day and is still used.

During the 1800s, fireworks went mostly unregulated and became more dangerous. In 1864, one citizen of Philadelphia noted in his diary, "as a general rule, 30 or 40 homes are set afire every Fourth of July!" Toward the end of the 1800s, one favorite

firecracker was a foot and a half long and when dropped into a metal postal box—as they often were—would blow the box to pieces. Some manufacturers went so far as to substitute dynamite for the black powder to increase the power and sound.

On July 4, 1903, fireworks injured 4,000 people and killed 445. In 1907 there were 1,100 fatalities and twice that many injured. Between 1900 and 1930 more than 4,000 people died from fireworks. A call arose for greater restrictions and safety. Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that fireworks injury rates are at an all-time low, even though 40 of the 50 states allow the sale of some form of fireworks. In the past 10 years, 25-30



A. LUTHERS

LET FREEDOM ZING!



ACCEPTABLE OVERHEAD Philadelphia's celebration of the nation's centennial filled the city sky with pyrotechnics.

percent of all injuries have come from illegal or homemade pieces.

Although fireworks, including rockets, pinwheels, fountains and firecrackers, have been popular from the earliest colonial days, their looks have changed. Most early fireworks appeared dull white or orange. Although a "cookbook" was published in 1845 detailing how to achieve different colors—add barium for green, calcium for orange, copper for blue, sodium for yellow and strontium for red—the volatility of these chemicals, especially when inexpertly mixed, prevented widespread use. In the late 1800s, "metal fuels," such as aluminum, magnesium and titanium, came on the market. They burn at a higher temperature and emit brighter light of various colors and quickly became essential.

ALTHOUGH early Americans rolled their own fireworks, the industry soon became focused in a few family firms, as it remains today, with secrets being passed down from one generation to the next. Around the world, most fireworks, including (or perhaps most especially), the large "professional" (Class B) fireworks seen in the park on the Fourth of July, are made by hand, as they have been for a thousand years. In many factories, only wooden hammers and cardboard-covered benches are used because friction



from metal machines or implements could spark an explosion, or the oil from a machine might create an explosive mix with the chemicals. In Chinese workshops, loud talk is forbidden so that the touchy "soul" of black powder might be honored and soothed. "Cutting room workers owe their lives to no smoking and lots of prayers," says a member of one American fireworks family.

"The ingredients are only 10 percent of the task of producing a beautiful effect," says Dr. John Conkling, executive director of the American Pyrotechnics Association, the trade group of the fireworks industry. "How fine the chemical powders are, what binder is used and the order in which the ingredients are blended and mixed will change the result. There's a lot of art involved." It's the art, more than the chemicals, that brings out the oohs and ahhs.

The large "blossoms" we see on Independence Day comprise a lifting charge, to get the package aloft, a bursting charge, which opens the fireworks at apogee, generally about five seconds after lift-off, and a sound charge, since the explosion required to open a blossom is not necessarily very loud. The sparks and flashes which we see come from the powder form of firework, while the larger, longer glows come from bigger concentrations of various chemicals.

What would the Fourth of July be without fireworks? More are ignited each year than for any other national celebration in the world. Wouldn't John Adams grin! □

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SEEING

HERE'S a brief glossary to help you sound like an expert when you're watching this year's Fourth of July extravaganza:

AMERICAN SHELL The firework "blossoms" you see come from either an American shell or an Oriental shell, distinguished not by where they are made but by their shape. The American shell is cylindrical and has a random pattern of colors that generally last longer than the oriental shell. The Oriental shell is spherical and produces the spectacular spreading chrysanthemum type of blossom which takes up the whole sky.

BLOSSOMS The aerial display.

BREAK Fireworks people refer to the explosion of an aerial show as a "break," as in "It broke low, or it broke high, or it broke late."

BOUQUET In France, they call the finale of the fireworks shows, the "bouquet." As in, "Ahh, here comes the bouquet."

CLASSIFICATIONS Fireworks, and larger ordnance, are classified into Class A, Class B or Class C, depending on how much powder is used. Class C are consumer fireworks with 50 mg powder (enough to cover a fingertip) allowed in a firecracker and 130 mg allowed in rockets. Class B, for which licenses are necessary, are the type seen in public displays and will typically contain 28,400 mg of powder. Class A are military ordnance, bombs and artillery shells. Colors: Watch for the different blending of colors. Red requires the least heat, and then orange, yellow, green, are all progressively "hotter." White is the hottest. Until very recently, the hardest color to attain was a bright, electric blue. It is still rare in fireworks.

FIREWORKS FOR EVERYONE by Bob Weaver, (12.95/ppd., Blue Sage Productions 4247 Alder Dr. San Diego, CA. 92116) This little book is the *Buyer's Guide to Consumer Fireworks*, describing and rating what's available in every state. A great place to start.

MORTAR The round metal tube, generally buried in the ground, out of which aerial shells seen at public displays are launched.

PYROTECHNICIAN The professional (or serious amateur) fireworks designer, handler and/or torch man.

SHAPES The most common forms of Fourth of July fireworks, by shape, are: chrysanthemum, weeping willow, peony, palm tree shell, rockets (generally with trailing stars), hummers and red-tipped comet. □

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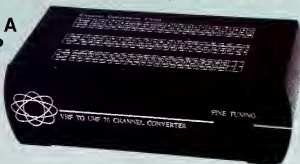


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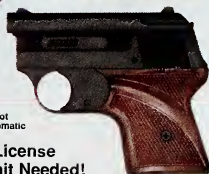
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1st FA Dbs Bn #16238
2nd Inf Div, 9th Rgt (Manchu Assn) #15229
4th Gen Hospital (WWII) #16598
8th Army Hq (Japan/Korea, WWII) #14787
10th Sta Hospital (WWII) #15953
11th Engrs (WWII) #16436
17th INF Assn (all wars & peacetime) #23944
27th Inf Div, 105th Rgt, E Co (WWII) #15624
32nd Inf Div, 128th Rgt, Serv Co #15532
35th Inf Div, 134th Rgt (WWII) #15531
37th Inf Div, 117th Engr Bn (WWII) #19188
40th Inf Div, 185th Rgt (WWII) #19183
42nd Inf Div, 222nd Rgt, M Co #16575
44th Tank Bn Assn (S Pacific, WWII) #10386
52nd Cmbt Avn Bn, Camp Holloway Assn #11292
75th Rangers, Papa Co (WWII) #23537
84th Inf Div "Raid Splitters" #15955
95th AAA Gun Bn (51-52) #23556
108th Evac Hospital #10766
115th Evac Hq Bns #20665
137th Sig Radio Bn #15726
138th Engr (C) Bn #10347
142nd Engr Bn (WWII) #16684
151st Med Bn, I Co (WWII) #19486
163rd Inf Bn Assn #23601
179th FA Bn Assn #15964
191st Tank Bn Assn #15307
224th AAA S L Bn (WWII) #20708
225th AAA, SL Bn (WWII) #30139
246th CA Assn (WWII) #10985
256th FA Bn, A/B/C/Hq/Serv Btlys #15851
264th FA Bn (WWII) #15315
279th Inf, Co G #15410
280th FA Bn (WWII) #16212
323rd Engr Bn (C of Korea) #22971
359th Engr, F Co (WWII) #15925
391st AAA Aw Bn (WWII) #23239
410th Engr, C Bn #12571
440th/472nd Sig Hvy Const Bns (incl AF) #10154
468th AAA Aw Bn (SP) (WWII) #11537
555th Ord Hq Co #20103
555th FA Bn (Korea/Hawaii, 49-54) #22075
560th Ord Hq Bn (WWII) #15907
605th Drn Bn Assn #19044
648th TD Bn #10901
700th QMC (Ger, WWII) #13269
768th MP Bn (WWII) #15260
769th FA Bn Assn (WWII) #19716
790th Tank Bn, D Co (WWII) #16049
757th Tank Bn (WWII) #16284
802nd Engr Assn #15223
813th Engr Avn Bn (WWII) #23647
816th Engr Avn Bn #12833
864th Engr Bn (WWII) #15250
871st Drn HqM Co (PGC) 54th OM Co #16201
881st DRD Co (43-86) #23888
892nd AAA Aw Bn, A Bty #15353
979th FA (SP) Bn #23250
1025th Engr (C) Bn (WWII) #30050
1258th Engr, C Bn, C Co #13361
1376th Army Fire Ctl 61th OBAM #14195
3405th (aka 67th) Ord, CA (WWII) #15655
A/B Ranger Inf Cn Assn (Korea) #16313
Camp Brookhaven, KY (all personnel) #16200
Para FA Test Bty (42) #16325
US Forces in Austria (45-55) #17247

NAVY

3rd NCB (WWII) #10711
6th Beach Bn (Normandy, D-Day) #22323
7th NCB (WWII) #21062
16th Weather Serv Assn #18652
28th NCB (WWII) #17563
50th NCB #17357

84th NCB #10384
107th NCB #18651
Amphib Attack Beas (WWII) #21897
C8MU-599 (WWII) #18781
LCI (R) 1026 #21607
LST-1041 (45-56) #13383
LST-451 (WWII) #19496
LST-521 #21372
LST-695 Survivors Assn #22961
LST-707 (WWII) #23934
LST-851 (WWII) #18566
LST-937 (41-45) #20354
LST-980 #15991
NASW Albuquerque (53-60) #16273
PC-1176 #23589
PC-825 #21385
USS Baldwin DD-624 (WWII) #12474
USS Begor APD-127 (WWII) #10048
USS Bigelow DD-942 (all) #19213
USS Boyle DD-600 #21697
USS Bush DD-529 #18237
USS Carpellato AP-136 #13846
USS Colorado BB-45 Alumni Assn #22993
USS Constellation AG-15 #10022
USS Conner ANP-37 #17777
USS Delta AR-9AK-29 #21216
USS Dorsethens L Dix AP-67 (WWII) #18000
USS Dracoe AR-7 #12611
USS Essex CGC-12 (45-56 years) #17675
USS Fleeholder DE-640 #13943
USS Francis Marion LPA-249 #13229
USS Gandy DE-764 (WWII) #22836
USS Gherardi DD-637/DMS-30 (42-55) #17431
USS Granger SS/SSK/AGSS 214 #23446
USS Gwin DM-33 #18631
USS Hart DD-594 #10986
USS Helms DD-388 #10348
USS Hilbert DE-742 #17500
USS Holider DD/DDE-819/DE-401 #10026
USS Hubbard DE-211/APD-53 (44-46) #30107
USS Iron Co LST-840 #10723
USS Jacob Jones DE-130 #17637
USS J. William Diller DD-31 #14699
USS Kendrick DD/DDE-331/DE-433 #14333
USS Kainer DE-DER-331/DE-431 #18033
USS LCI (L) 886 (44-46) #23936
USS Lough DE-686 #23593
USS Louisville CA-28 #18426
USS Megrez AK-126 #10638
USS Morris DD-417 (40-45) #21285
USS Nashville CL-43 #10399
USS Norman Scott DD-690 #17698
USS Oglethorpe AKA-100 (all yrs) #22139
USS Ozark LSV-2 (WWII) #13453
USS Passumpsic AD-107 (46-73) #21962
USS Plymouth Rock LSD-29 #19488
USS Power DD-839 (all yrs) #23162
USS Prairie AD-15 #18019
USS Pursuit AM-108/AGS-17 #11021
USS Raby DE-DEC-68 #13447
USS Rell MR-30 #23377
USS Rowan DD-405 #18215
USS Saipan CVL-48 Assn #17346
USS Satyr ARL-23 (all yrs) #11672
USS Sevier APA-233 (WWII) #10782
USS Shea DM-30 #10309
USS Soubaraines AG-35 #10497
USS St Lo CVE-63/CV-65 #17315
USS Stockton DD-646 #18241
USS Stribling DD-687 #11595
USS Tattnell DD-125/APD-19 #11173
USS Taussig DD-746 #18307
USS Tealag SSN-638 #18603
USS Telfair APA-210 #14649
USS Theodore Parker DE-369 #23166
USS Tutuila ARG-4 (44-72) #17390
USS Underhill DE-682 #17325
USS Velocity AM-128 #22558
USS Vicksburg CL-86 #17516
USS Vulcan AR-5 (41-91) #10779
USS Weiler DE Waco DE-412 #17331
USS Whipple DD-217 #18145
USS Wilkinson DL-5 #23614
USS Willis A Lee DL-4 #22183
USS Windsor APA-55 (43-45) #21553
USS Winged Arrow AP-170 #17707
USS Wrangell AE-12 Assn #21917
VA-163 (VN) #18114
VAH-21 Project Trim DD-67 #12589

VC-5 (1st Navy Hvy Ht Attk Sqdn) #13315
VP-26 (WWII) #10634
VR-24 Assn #10783
VS-892, Korean THSM Sqdn #17827
YMS-389 #18105

AIR FORCE

28th Bomb Wing Assn #15189
38th Bomb Wing (France 50-B) #19995
56th Weather Recon Sqdn #12944
307th Bomb Wg, Lincoln NE (54-65) #23913
330th/331st FS (Stewart AFB) #14937
339th TC Sig Co #13088
42nd Bomb Wing (Korea) #15126
512th Weather Recon Sqdn #12846
517th Air Police Sq (Wiesbaden, Ger) #13715
6912th Berlin Island Assn #23962
Air Force Gunners Assn #15155
Charleston AFS, ME (all yrs) #14919
Crash Rescue Boat Assn #14647
Navigators & Observers Assn #12577
Photo Mapping Assn #20426
Pilot Class 52-S #15187
Sentry/Patrol Dog School #13156
Warbird Roundup #23174

ARMY FORCE

5th AF, 5th Sta Hospital #20038
8th AF, 390th Bomb Grp (WWII) #10469
9th AF Assn, Inc (incl AF) #19017
9th AFA, TC Reg #19016
14th Air Assn "Flying Tigers" #11447
20th Fr Grp Assn #12584
43rd Bomb Grp (H) Assn (WWII) #11003
47th TC Sqdn #21432
63rd Sta Compl Sqdn (SP) (WWII) #16901
71st Flt Recon, Hq/Hq Sqdn #16759
11th Air Wing, Hq/Hq Sqdn #17152
312 Bomb Grp (L) (WWII) #23924
317th Air Serv Sqdn #16918
376th Bomb Grp (H) Assn (WWII) #12382
95th SWS Bns #15411
804th Sig Co Regt Avn Assn #16830
931st Sig Bn Assn Sp #16764
1984th Trk Co #16950
3505th AAFB, Scott Fld (44-46) #19456
All Aerial Gunners #17300
Pilot Class 45-A (La Junta AAB, CO) #23676

MARINES

1st Airborne Bn, 15th Def Bn (42-44) #10930
1st Mar Div H-3-7 Korea (50-55) #23971
51st/4th Def Bn Assn (WWII) #13764
5th Mar Rgt, 3rd Bn (Korea, 50-53) #19502
18th Rgt, 2nd Bn, E Co (WWII) #17162
22nd Mar Rgt Assn, Inc #12475
Avn Supply Marines (East Chap) #17100
Marine 4.5 rocket #10812
SATS/GAF Assn #23650
USS Coral Sea CVE-43 (Mar, det, 47-89) #23963
VMTF/VMA-211 Assn #12431
VMSB/VMTB-232 #13115

MERCHANT MARINE

Pennsylvania Schoolship Assn #23360

COAST GUARD

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Loran units 26/211/39/91/94 #17023
USCGC Courier WAGR/WTR-410 #22399
USCG Cutterman's Assn (Portland, ME) #23945
USS Gallup PF-47 #14126
USS Gen M Meigs AR-116 #20797
USS Samuel Chase APA-26 Assn (WWII) #10284
USS Sea Cloud (Greenland Ptrl, 40-45) #18758

MISCELLANEOUS

Burtonwood Assn (All) #21734
Korean Vets Assn of Nebraska (50-55) #22853
Northwest Panama Canal #17244
USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Assn #17258

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IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (see VETS' column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (see COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis. If a notice does not appear within six months of submission, please resubmit.

GIS stationed at the 20th Ft. Hospital at Bad Kreuznach between Sept. 1952 and March 1953. Contact: George Butzin, 2118 W. Justice Dr., Greenfield, IN 46140.

Anyone who served with the 7th Ord. (DS) Co., Korea, 1952-54. Contact: Rocco Marellini, 12 Getty Rd., Stony Point, NY 10980.

Anyone who served in the 1536th AAF BU Homestead Air Base, Homestead, FL, 1943-44. Contact: Paul White, 611 Poe St., Wilson, NC 27893-4624.

Personnel assigned to or witnessed shows of the 6th Special Services Plt. in England, Belgium, France and Germany, 1944-45. This platoon performed entertainment for all of the front line units of the day. Contact: Stanley Hopton, 68 Trumbull St., Watertown, CT 06795.

Any member of the 30th Int. Reg. who was processed through the replacement depots at Toul or Epinal, France, Jan. 1945. Contact: Shirley Smith, 2350 Parkridge, St. Louis, MO 63144.

Anyone who served aboard any of the six landing ship vehicle vessels commissioned in WWII. Contact: George Hasten, USS Osage LSV-4 Association, 1727 N. 100th St., Maeshall, IL 62441-3912.

Personal histories, photographs and base publications relative to USNTC Bainbridge, Md., for research project. Contact: Paul Fleming, 2927 Duncan Rd., Wilmington, DE 19808.

Anyone who served aboard the USS Oswald, DE 767. Contact: Walter B. Miller, 3045 Brook Dr., Decatur, GA 30033-3937.

Anyone who served in the 38th Inf. Co. D, 2nd Pst, 2nd Div. and was stationed during the Battle of the Bulge. Contact: M. R. Huntzinger, 820 Hickory Way, Noblesville, IN 46060-8516.

Anyone who served with the 77th Service Sqdrn., AAC, at Spence Field, Moultrie, Ga., and Hunter Field, Savannah, Ga., WWII, 1942-43. Contact: E. Hall Kempson, 725 E. 64th St., C-29, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Personnel who served in the 774th Field Art. Btry., CA, to the end of WWII. Contact: Archie Layton, 940 Township Rd. 2408, Parysville, OH 44869.

A copy of the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill book for the year 1945, published by and for the personnel of that ship. Contact: William Wingfield, 1514 Rock St., Sioux City, IA 51510.

Anyone who served in the Army 1st Cav., 11th ACZ (ARPs) Phu Lio, Vietnam, 1970-72. Contact: Kenny Trujillo, P.O. Box 17091, Phoenix, AZ 85011.

Anyone who served on the LCT 25, Oct. 1942 to June 1944. Contact: John Henry Coupe, 3621 Rawhide Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89120.

Boot camp company photograph taken at Sampson, NY, Unit D Co. #205, November or December 1944. Contact: William Dignan, 13935 Talmage Loop, Bayonet Point, FL 34667-8037.

Former members of the 227th F.A. Bn., Btry. C who served in WWII. Contact: Cecil Harvey, P.O. Box 265, Williamstown, MA 01267.

All Marines who went through boot camp at Parris Island, June 1944, and were members of Plt. 449. Contact: Ralph Clito, 32 North Black Horse Pike, Blackwood, NJ 08012-3040.

Personnel who served aboard the USS Sanborn (APA-193), WWII. Contact: William P. Robertson III, RR 1 Box 11, Franklin, ME 04634.

Anyone who served with the 155 Port Bn. in Alaska, England, France and Belgium, 1942-45. Contact: James Sullivan, 5 Sunset Dr., Leicester, MA 01524.

Anyone who served in the 70th Eng. Combat Bn., Co. B, Wallfield, Austria, 1951-52. Contact: John Zawilinski, 650 Rtd. #1, Killingsworth, CT 06419-1126, or e-mail trawd@att.com.

TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high National or Department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Bernard H. Gollinger, VA, Nat'l Rehab. Comm. Advisory Board (1953-57), Nat'l VAER Executive Section (1954-58), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1953-54), Dept. Rehab. Chmn. (1954-55, 1954-58), Dept. Adjutant (1959-73), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1955-58).

William C. Sweeney Jr., Nat'l Convention Chmn. (1975-84), Nat'l M&PA Chmn. (1966-67, 1969-70), Dept. Boys State Chmn. (1972-73), Dept. Cmdr. (1972-73), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1969-70).

William B. Long, TX, Nat'l Foreign Rel. Council V. Chmn. (1987-89), Nat'l Dist. Guests Chmn. (1989-98), Dept. Cmdr. (1997-98), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1987-88), Dept. PR Chmn. (1988-94), Dept. Publications Chmn. (1989-91, 1992-94).

Howard F. Davis, CA and France, Nat'l M&PA Chmn. (1961-62), Alt. NEC (1962-64), Nat'l Legislative Council, (1993-94, California), Dept. V. Cmdr. (1961), Dept. Cmdr. (1961-62), Dept. Asst. Adjutant (1964-66).

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to CIO, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Legion Department Service Offices.

Army, Co. B, 48th Tank Bn., 14th Armored Div. Ralph R. Torcello needs witness to verify shrapnel wounds to his arm during the Battle of the Bulge, 1950.

Army, B-1 (basic training), Fort Ord, CA. Robert M. Gardner needs witness to verify he fell from top bunk of guard shack during seizure in December 1962, 1991.

Army, 7th Inf. Rgt., Heavy Tank Co. James R. Griffith needs witness to verify his case of frostbite incurred Jan.-Feb. 1953 in Korea, 1389.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their Posts.

Life Membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Randall Busch (1998) Post 270, Venango, NE.

Andy Alonzo (1998) Post 589, Salinas, CA.

Kenneth Hill (1997) Post 230, Spring Lake, NC.

Johnny Wilkie (1998) Post 230, Spring Lake, NC.

A. Maria Buterworth (1997) Post 122, Bay Pines, FL.

Robert Durgin, Joseph Kupiec, Clarence Bachand (1998) Post 391, Charlton, MA.

Charles Widman, H. Edward Ball (1997) Post 199, Nanuet, NY.

Albert Mendoza (1998) Post 14, San Bernardino, CA.

Henry Cotton, John Carlisle, Leroy Seaton, Carl Weber (1997) Post 182, Granby, CT.

Jack Austin, Lawrence Campbell (1997) Post 332, Rockton, IL.

Robert Maling (1998) Post 211, Holidford, MN.

James E. Harris Jr. (1998) Post 515, Latrobe, PA.

Hanford E. Moxley (1998) Post 191, Mount Airy, MD.

Alfred R. Bucca (1998) Post 1948, Washingtonville, NY.

James E. Houshous (1998) Post 79, Correctionville, IA.

William F. Gardner (1998) Post 575, Cooperstown, NY.

Lynn R. Lampi (1998) Post 57, Fairbanks, AK.

Anton M. Mouritsen (1998) Post 71, Kansas City, MO.

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KOREA

Continued from page 45

our doubts. The Chinese might be coming south, he said, and he liked the idea of having some experienced rifle-platoon leaders around.

Some of the most awful and bloodiest fighting took place in those low hills in the final year of the war. Both the Marines and the Army held outposts just north of the main line of resistance, and night after night the Chinese swarmed toward, and too often over, those outposts. It was absurd, in a way. A ceasefire was being negotiated. What difference did it make if the demarcation line were 600 yards north or south of where it now was? Was the life of a single soldier, on either side, worth it?

Right up to the day the armistice was signed, the Chinese attacked. In a single, small, murderous brawl, 30 or 40 Marines might die, a hundred or two hundred Chinese. Platoon leaders called down our artillery on their own positions; barrels of gasoline were set afire to parboil the attackers. The thing was as brutal and primitive as the assaulting of castles in the Middle Ages or fighting the Saracens during the Crusades. We had everything but broadswords and chain mail. Martin Russ wrote about the last few nights of the war when, knowing the ceasefire would become effective in a matter of hours, the Chinese continued to attack, Marines continued to send out ambushes and raids, bloody grappling for a few lousy yards, killing and being killed.

I was rotated home the Fourth of July weekend in 1952. Mack Allen shipped over—stayed in the Corps. He wanted command of a rifle company. I didn't have his passion, his VMI professionalism. Just getting out there alive was enough. I didn't want anything else, ever, out of life. That was how I felt then; sometimes how I still feel all these years later.

There were no newspaper openings, so I took a job writing advertising copy for Macy's and was at work a week or two after getting home. That's what you did then; you came home and went looking for a job. No parades were staged, but neither did people spit at us in the streets. Later that summer I got a letter from the Navy Department. My sea chest had been shipped back from Korea, and I could pick it up at Grand Central Terminal.

My kid brother and I drove over there in my '39 Buick convertible. The chest was stored in the depot's cellar, down where they held freight and kept lost luggage and such. I handed in a paper, and the railroad clerk led us deeper into the cellar. There, along with my footlocker and the lost suitcases, were coffins from Korea, stacked and tidy, each with its American flag neatly lashed on.

They, too, were home.

OVER the years I tried several times to write of all this, to try to make sense of Korea. Tried to figure out why we went, and so willingly. I had answers for that: We were the children of the Great Depression. A job was a job. More to the point, our elder brothers and fathers had fought the Japanese and the Nazis and beaten them. There freshly remained an honorable tradition of duty. Of service. Of that corny old chromo, patriotism. I kept trying to get it down effectively on paper, once even turning truth into fiction, writing a novel. None of the book publishers I approached was interested. Vietnam was the trendy stuff now. Korea? That was a long time ago, and who cared?

By 1990 I'd published a half dozen other books and had developed a style and a following and knew my way around, and so I gave Korea another whack. Why not? I wanted my kids to know what it was like, and for the men of my age to read about it, while we were still alive and not too old and frayed to care. So I wrote *The Coldest War*.

When it came out on June 25, 1990, 40 years to the day from that Sunday when the war began and the North Koreans came south across the 38th Parallel, Dan Rather and Walter Cronkite and Jim Lehrer and Mario Cuomo got behind the book and gave promotional quotes. The publisher submitted it for a Pulitzer Prize nomination and *The New York Times* called it "a superb personal memoir of the way it was." I don't say that to puff myself but in gratitude that, finally, Americans would get a chance to read about "our war."

Among the old salts who called was Jack Rowe out in Fallbrook, Calif.

He was another Dog Company platoon leader, one that I'd not seen since Memorial Day of 1952 when we were attacking a Chinese-held hill called Yoke and not doing too well at it. The Chinese were lobbing and rolling grenades downhill, and the grenades, and the wire, had us pinned. Jack caught one grenade, tossed it back, and

thought, well, that's good business. But when he caught the next, it went off. The last I saw of Rowe he was being carried off on a stretcher, alive but not much more. I later heard he'd been awarded a Navy Cross for his foolishness. When he phoned in 1990 to say he'd read my book, I asked what happened to him after Yoke.

He'd lost some fingers and the sight in one eye, he said, spent nine months in the hospital, fell in love with his nurse, married her, went back to teaching school and coaching football, moved to California, got a pilot's license, wrote several books and had 10 children! He was pretty casual about it. Here was someone I thought was finished, and he ended by having a life richer than most men dream.

That, too, was Korea.

When they finally dedicated that Korean War memorial in Washington a couple of years ago, I took the train down from New York. There was a Dog Company reunion, and Sen. Chafee and I went to it and then went out to dinner together. Just to talk. To remember. Chafee was a hero of mine, and just to share a meal was important. The next day was hot but sunny, and I was one of the thousands and thousands there on the mall as the president and the brass and great men orated and the band played and jets flew overhead. Back in the grand air conditioning of the Ritz-Carlton hotel, I called one of my daughters in Manhattan to tell her how it went.

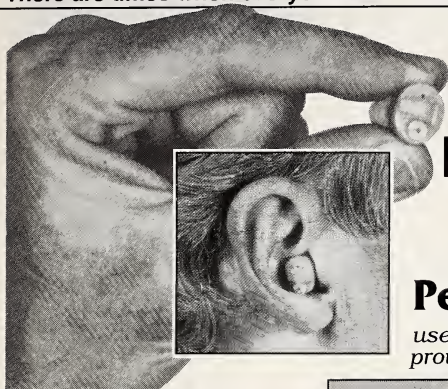
Until that moment, I'd enjoyed the whole business. Very cool, I was. And then my daughter asked, "and how was it, Poppy?"

And I couldn't answer. But sat there on the bed crying, holding the phone and unable to talk. I hadn't expected that. I hadn't realized the hold Korea still had on me. It was some time before I could call her back and talk. Was it the loss of friends, or of my own youth, that weighed on me? Why should I become so emotional after so long a time?

Occasionally in the mail I receive an offer to make a trip back. When they held the Olympics at Seoul I could have gone as a journalist. Dog Company had its own trip back. Why didn't I go and attempt in some way to shake off Korea, to write an end to it?

I guess I answered that myself in *The Coldest War*: "I knew I would never go back to Korea, never sign up for an old soldiers' tour. I didn't want to see the hills again or feel the cold or hear the wind out of Siberia, moaning. I didn't want to disturb the dead." □

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by Martin Howard

For the last couple of years, I've constantly had to ask people to repeat what they just said to me... I've turned up the volume on the TV so loud that everyone in the house complains... and my wife and children tell me that I'm speaking too loud.

Naturally, I've denied everything. I didn't want to admit I knew that I was having a slight hearing problem. I was hoping it would go away, all by itself, without doing anything about it! But, deep down inside, I knew I needed a little extra help in the hearing department, and lately, I needed this extra help more and more.

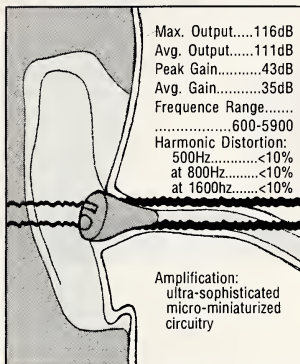
My wife was so tired of me asking her to either speak louder or repeat everything she said. We were having arguments over my hearing. Finally, she insisted that I get some help. She told me to buy a hearing aid.

Sure, just what I need. A bulky, ugly, ill-fitting and heavy hearing aid sitting behind my ear. And, the darn thing will probably rub the skin off my ear too!

She laughed at me. No, it's nothing like that - science and technology have revolutionized the audio industry. The product I'm talking about is called **MaxiSound**. It's a personal amplifier and is very different from the hearing aids you are describing.

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MaxiSound worked so well for me that I am now marketing them direct to the consumer. And, I know that they'll work for you too! *It's great to be able to hear the TV clearly again.*



Let me tell you a little more about them. They are ideal for amplification of faint sounds like distant lectures or outdoor wildlife. Each amplifier features an individual on/off and volume control. Its one-size-fits-all is comfortable and comes with a replaceable soft rubber tip, 300 hour battery, cleaning tool, storage pouch and instructions. **MaxiSound** is made in the USA, and is comparable to other sound enhancement systems that retail for up to \$1000.00. Separate maintenance kit includes: 4 replace-

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Dr. George T. Stallings

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TALKING POINTS

Continued from page 12

idle without public involvement.

"The United States Constitution has survived longer than any other written constitution," Bryant noted. "I suggest it is because it puts into our hands as citizens of the United States duties and obligations to our government. It is our government—our Constitution."

Bryant, the daughter of Mike and Julia Monday and Robert Bryant, was sponsored by W.A. Hudgens Post 14 of Anderson. The National Honor Society member plans to attend Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and then teach. Bryant's oration, *The Orchestra*, lamented the high number of non-voters: "I ask, why don't we have 100 percent voting?... I am concerned that people just don't care. We have an obligation to vote and to encourage others to do the same."

"The guarantee of this Constitution is powerless unless we the people take a stand and make the orchestra of the Constitution play harmoniously and be the supreme law of the land.... I am going to play my violin the best I possibly can," Bryant promised.

On behalf of The American Legion, Joseph E. Caouette Jr., chairman of the National Americanism Commission assigned the 54 Department winners a mission: "You've been lauded and commended. Now I'm going to turn the tables on you with a challenge: You have wonderful verbal talent; now go out and use that talent."

"You must be role models for your generation... Don't let us down."

In dispersing to that task, the 54 champions demonstrated the constitution's physical reach. Jaime Yelvington, Department of Hawaii, caught a plane for the Kwajalein Islands, half a world away. Clayton Callan, Department of Indiana, headed for Muncie, an hour up the road. □

—Robert Imler

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GRASSROOTS

Continued from page 10

must decide on his or her opinion. Finding information can be as easy as hopping on the Internet, either at home or at a local library. The American Legion's Web site (www.legion.org) contains information on issues significant to veterans, including Gulf War health issues and the GI Bill of Health.

The Citizens Flag Alliance Inc. (www.cfa-inc.org) is a coalition striving to persuade Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

The CFA Web site includes message points and significant events in the quest to protect Old Glory, as well as results from public opinion polls and questionnaires outlining Senate support in the 105th Congress.

Acting under the directive of House Speaker Newt Gingrich to make federal legislative information freely available, a Library of Congress team brought THOMAS (thomas.loc.gov) on-line in January 1995. As new files are received from the Government Printing Office, they are indexed and made available.

Information includes the floor activities of Congress each week; summary, status and full text of bills; the Congressional Record including index; committee reports and Web sites; historical documents, and links to other resources on the Internet.

ONCE armed with information, members of the Legion family should sit down and craft a message. Writing remains the most popular means of communication with a congressional office. Letters should be brief, direct, specific, courteous and personal. Remember to ask for a response to a specific inquiry, and follow up to thank representatives for their support, even if the legislation is defeated.

For those whose writing skills are suspect, try the Internet Public Library (www.ipl.org), the first on-line public library. For help with composing a message, check out the informative "A+ Researching and Writing" section with a step-by-step guide to developing a well-structured argument.

Letters should be addressed "Dear Senator" or "Dear Representative," and be mailed to: The Honorable (full name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC

20510; or The Honorable (full name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Another means of contacting elected officials is by electronic mail. Most members of Congress and many local officials are now on-line and monitor e-mail transmissions from their constituents, helping them gauge constituent opinion. Make use of this new means of communicating with elected representatives on vital issues.

CITIZENS must include their name and address, preferably at the top of the e-mail message, because most legislators have only enough help to respond to those who live in the member's congressional district.

Members of Congress, state legislators, and local officials also are listed in the blue pages of most telephone directories. Congressional e-mail addresses can be found at Congress.org (www.congress.org). This site allows "Netizens" to access a directory of congressional leaders and to check what's new in Congress.

If face-to-face meeting is preferable, go for it. Remember, however, that it is difficult to arrange an appointment, or even speak by phone, with elected representatives. They are extremely busy and seldom have the luxury to spend a great deal of time on a single issue. The next option is to visit with members of their staffs. Try to see one of their administrative assistants, legislative assistants or their legislative director. The administrative assistant evaluates constituent requests passed on by legislative assistants. The legislative director makes recommendations concerning particular legislative issues and action required.

When visiting an elected representative, be mindful of his or her schedule and, above all, be prepared and plan the visit carefully.

Make an appointment with the member's appointment secretary or scheduler. Be on time, show patience and understanding if asked to wait, and be prepared to answer questions on the issue or legislation concerned.

More than anything else, good citizens never give up. Slevin says one of his primary themes as mayor is, "don't abdicate leadership."

"Each citizen can make a difference," Slevin says. "I hope to instill that in people. It's not just the [political action committees] and the polls that determine policy. Every person can influence policies affecting us and the children of America."

—Trent D. McNeeley

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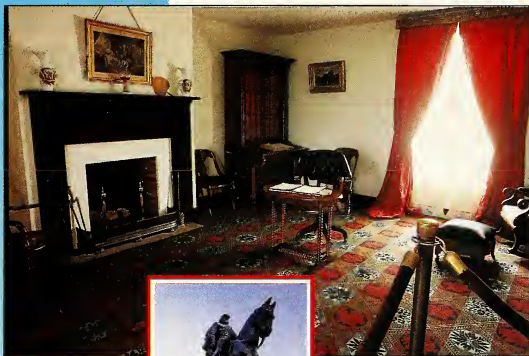
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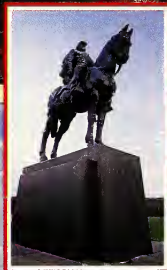
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WHERE WE DIVIDED AND REUNITED



HERITAGE

The drawing room of the McLean farmhouse, where Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant, can be an appropriate finale for a day of Civil War site-seeing. Visitors can also salute Stonewall Jackson at Manassas National Battlefield Park and tour the Old Stone House, which served as a hospital after the Bull Run battles.



Sitting in McLean's parlor on April 9, 1865, Grant proposed, and Lee accepted, the generous terms that ended the bitter war and reunited the United States. In fact, the tone of the meeting was so cordial Grant noted, "I almost forgot the object of our meeting." Could such a divisive war today be settled in an afternoon of courteous discussion?

An organized tour through Virginia can retrace a good portion of the Civil War. Visitors can march to Richmond, stand atop Ball's Bluff, follow Lee's retreat—all while enjoying a leisurely drive through the diverse countryside.

"There stands Jackson like a stone wall!" shouted Confederate Brig. Gen. Barnard Bee. He was referring to Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson as "Stonewall's" Virginia troops held their ground at the first battle of Manassas (called Bull Run by the North). At Manassas National Battlefield Park, visitors can take walking and driving tours of the first and second battles. They'll learn how the untested Union troops picked berries while marching to their first battle in 1861. Spectators from nearby Washington, D.C., toting picnic baskets followed to view what would surely be a colorful day. The result of the first battle sent spectators fleeing and left more than 4,600 soldiers killed, missing or wounded—dashing visions of a short war.

Back at Appomattox, a radio-guided tour starts at Petersburg National Battlefield. Travelers can

Civil War
museums and
tours reward
and educate
visitors.

A

PPOMATTOX Court House. That name misled many to believe Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the town's courthouse. The error stems from the fact that many 19th-century Virginia towns, which served as the county seat, had the words "Court House" appended to their names.

Travelers will discover the site of the actual surrender as they visit the central Virginia town of Appomattox. There, visitors will learn that on the Palm Sunday Confederate soldiers scouted for a worthy location for the summit; the courthouse was closed. Wilmer McLean, one of the few who had not fled from the approaching armies, was persuaded to open his home for the ceremony.

relive Lee's retreat by tuning in 1610 AM and following the radio broadcast through the placid countryside on a 20-stop driving route. Along the way, updates will be broadcast on Lee's advances and reverses, his crossings of the Appomattox River and his reaction to Grant's request for surrender. On April 7, Grant sent a letter to Lee "to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion of blood by asking of you...surrender."

The final stop of the tour is the courthouse



PARDON

Confederates headed home with pardons printed on this press, displayed at Clover Hill Tavern.

proper, where on April 12, 1865, Confederate soldiers stacked their weapons, furled their flags and began the long trek home. The original village is part of the Appomattox Courthouse National Historic Park. Actors bring the historic characters of the war's final days to life as visitors stroll through the McLean home, the Clover Hill Tavern where parole passes were printed, and the surrender triangle where the rebels stacked their arms.

Those who truly want to re-enact the final days of the war can camp just like the soldiers did at Holliday Park. (Except today there are shower facilities, a swimming pool, picnic areas and a playground.) Visitors who want a bit more pampering can stay at one of the three hotels in Appomattox County.

"Such a gentle place for such a terrible war to have ended," notes Chris Calkins, National Park Service Historian. Its serenity should be given due credit as the perfect stage for the war's civil conclusion.

For more information call or write the Appomattox visitor-information center: P.O. Box 704, Appomattox, VA 24522; (804) 352-2621; for information on Civil War Trails, call (888) CIVIL WAR; for information on the war in the Old Dominion, log on to www.civilwar-va.com. □

—Layne Cameron

July's Civil War Events

12 "Christ in the Camp," at the Stonewall Jackson Museum. (540) 465-5999

18-19 "Civil War Weekend" at the Manassas Museum and surrounding area. (703) 368-1873

23-25 "Lee and Grant in '64" bus tour: The Overland Campaign from the Wilderness to the James. (800) 247-6253

25 CSS Virginia offers displays and presentations on Civil War naval action. (757) 322-2987

25 "Rally for the Valley" features Civil War music, encampments to tour and living history. (540) 722-3647 □



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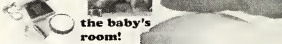
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ACROSS AMERICA

Continued from page 21

hobnobbed with the powerful and glamorous since becoming a journalist?

A. I can't think of anyone in the business who has—everyone starts out with the grunt jobs. In my case it was as the prep editor covering local sports for *The Gainesville Sun*. I got the job after lying through my teeth about my experience—well, actually I just stretched the truth a little.

But I had a family to feed, and I really needed the job. I did it well, however, and not very long went by before they put me on the court beat. Those were the days when I learned the importance of getting good research done and then putting together a solid factual story in time for deadline.

A year or so later I applied for and got a job with *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. We moved up there and fell in love with Atlanta. We had four children before we knew what happened, and to make some extra money I took stringer assignments covering the south for *The New York Times*. My name got noticed by *Time* magazine, and I went to work for them for three and a half years—during which time I was fortunate enough to have two back-to-back cover stories. Then *Atlanta Magazine* offered me the job of editor, and I eagerly took it so I could spend more time at home with my family.

We went after controversial issues other publications were afraid to deal with and made *Atlanta* into an award-winning magazine. Then I began to have differences of opinions with the owner and found myself down in Florida as editor of *The Tallahassee Democrat*.

It was a good job—but everything I wanted in life was back in Atlanta, and I couldn't help feeling like I had to get back there. That opportunity came when CNN started up in 1980. I went to work back in a grunt job I was really over-qualified for, but it got me back home.

Ted Turner was able to get me out into the field to do stories in a relatively short time, but I'll have to admit it was humbling to be back on the bottom of the ladder while I was there. Then one day he came to me with the idea for *Across America*, and I've been doing it ever since.

Q. You've won numerous journalism awards for your work—the Edward R. Murrow Award [Woods is the only CNN staffer to have done so], two Cable ACE awards and five nominations, and the Journalist of the Year Award from your old alma mater. This puts you in some prestigious company. What do you consider the most important factors in your success?

A. I've been blessed, and I've been lucky.

I guess keeping in mind that the story is what is important had something to do with that. There are too many talking heads out there—reporters who love to see their face on the tube and hear themselves talk. I like to let the camera do the talking when it's obvious it should—if the story is there the camera will tell it. There's no room for "I" in this business if you're going to do it right. My staff and I maintain a strong drive for excellence in our work; and a drive for excellence, to me, means making the story come alive through those involved in it, not through those who are telling it.

Q. You've done many touching, human-interest stories for *Across America*. What stories interest you the most?

A. I like to think the last story we did is the most important one we've done, simply because they all have their own merits and they're all good stories about people who have made a difference in the lives of others.

There are a number of them that have moved me to stay in contact with those involved, and I've developed a friendship with many of the people I've worked with—famous people and everyday people alike. Some of the people I've worked with aren't involved in the stories I do, but they help me document them by providing background information, logistical support, research—things like that. These people continuously impress me with how willing they are to help us spotlight some of the subjects of my stories, and I've stayed in contact with many of them over the years. Your own American Legion Posts in different areas have been an invaluable source of information in places where I've done stories, and I've met some very nice people when calling on them for help.

I get involved with the people in my stories. They say you shouldn't in this business, but I do because the sto-

ries and the people in them are so moving to me personally.

I can't resist picking up the phone to call them once in a while to see how they're doing.

Interestingly enough, George Wallace is one of them. In an interview with me, Wallace first told the world he'd been wrong about his feelings regarding racial matters. Then there's Jimmy Carter—a truly good man if there ever was one.

I've also become good friends with the Rev. Billy Graham and Gen. William Westmoreland since working with them on stories. But I honestly can't say their friendships are any more important to me than those I've developed with people I've met along the way whose names you would never recognize.

Q. Are there any characters you've met along the way who you might feel have interested you more than usual?

A. Well, again—most of the people I meet interest me or I wouldn't be doing stories about them. I guess you could say some have surprised me, though—like Fidel Castro, for example.

Hank Aaron and I went down to Cuba to do a story about the island's boys of summer—they have quite a reputation for producing top-notch ball players down there, you know. We were having dinner with Castro, and he told me he almost became a professional baseball player himself. He said he once had a pretty good curve ball and nearly signed with the New York Yankees—but Fidel Castro decided to become a guerrilla instead, and we know how that turned out.

Q. How does television journalism impact the lives of viewers, and what areas need to be addressed with regard to responsibility in reporting, which, at times seems to be imbalanced?

A. That's a big one. Television is so pervasive in our society. There are TV sets everywhere from tiny shacks in Third-World countries to New York City corporate board rooms. No doubt about it, television is everywhere.

That gives those of us in the business an immense amount of power to influence people's lives, and we need to remember the responsibility that goes along with that power. I think some of us in the business don't do that, and it makes me sad when I see it happening. □



Loss of Face

Brittany came to her mother and asked, "Mommy, do you know what you look like?"

"Yes, dear. Of course I do."

"That's good, because Brenda and I just broke your bedroom mirror."

In the Black

Old accountants never die, they just lose their balance.

Misdirected

A little old lady riding the bus was very anxious about missing her stop. She poked the driver with her umbrella and asked, "Is that the First National Bank?"

"No, madam," replied the driver, "that's my rib."

Pre-emptive Strike

A mother of two young sons was sorting out the details of a fight between them. As the boys tried to simultaneously tell their sides of the story, their mother called for quiet and asked them to take turns.

"It all started," explained Andrew, "when Alex hit me back."

Recall Notice

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

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Now Hear This

A man suspected that his wife might have a hearing problem. One night he positioned himself across the room from her as she sat in her favorite chair, her back to him. Softly he asked, "Can you hear me?" When she didn't answer, he moved closer and repeated, "Can you hear me?" Still no answer. He moved closer again and asked, "Can you hear me?" Finally, he repeated his question from directly behind his wife's chair, to which she responded, "For the fourth time, yes!"

Perspective

A man was told by a fortune-teller, "You'll be poor and unhappy and miserable until you are 50." "After 50, then what?" asked the man. "By that time," the fortune-teller said, "you'll be used to it."

Executive Privilege

"When Abraham Lincoln was your age," the father told his son, "he used to walk 10 miles every day to get to school." "Really?" said the boy. "Well, when he was your age, he was president."



"I lent it to this nice old lady who had a flat. I figured there was no use in both of us being stranded."

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